



THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,688

THURSDAY 13 AUGUST 1998

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IN THE NEWS SECTION

Losing faith in Eddie
SIX PAGES OF SPORT

IN THE BROADCAST REVIEW

The athletes who pout for Britain
REVIEW FRONT

Edinburgh: a wild child tamed
ARTS, COMMENT, FAST TRACK & EDUCATION



A red grouse keeping watch in the Lammermuir Hills as the Glorious Twelfth dawned on the Borders, but poor stocks meant shooting was cancelled Colin McPherson

Jobless fall masks bad news on interest rates

INTEREST RATES are unlikely to be cut until well into next year. City economists forecast yesterday after the Bank of England warned that inflation was due to rise.

Although figures released yesterday showed that unemployment was at its lowest for 18 years, the Bank also warned that the level was probably below its "natural rate" - suggesting that jobless totals would have to rise to keep inflation down.

The warning by Mervyn King, deputy governor of the Bank, took the gloss from the "good news" of falls in both earnings growth and unemployment, and provoked angry responses from both Labour MPs and the unions.

Labour MPs are preparing

BY LEA PATERSON AND COLIN BROWN

a sustained campaign in the run-up to the annual Labour party conference in October to urge the Chancellor to change the terms of reference for the independent monetary committee of the Bank of England.

"There is growing nervousness and anxiety because of these predictions of increasing unemployment," said Andrew Mackinlay, one of the more outspoken Labour MPs. "The Chancellor has handed this to his independent committee the tools, without the remit to be sensitive to employment. That is causing considerable concern."

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has stood by Gordon Brown this week in

defending the Chancellor's strategy for the economy, but there is likely to be increasing disquiet among cabinet ministers if the target of reducing inflation is seen to ignore the plight of the unemployed.

"What we are looking for is stability with sensible growth and we are getting it. The Bank are right to be cautious and we are right to be optimistic."

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growing, and Mr King said yesterday that there was now a one-in-eight chance of a recession next year.

"We are now moving into a difficult stage of the economic cycle - more difficult than at any point since the inflation target was introduced."

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Ken Wofford, at Paribas, said:

"Talk of a cut in rate by year-end looks rather premature."

David Walton, at Goldman Sachs, added: "We remain confident that the peak in interest rates has been seen, although interest rates are likely to remain on hold for the rest of 1998."

Yesterday's unexpectedly sharp fall in earnings growth has lessened the risks of another rate rise, economists said. But July's fall in unemployment, prompted some in the City to speculate that the rate of earnings growth could pick up again later in the year.

Kevin Darlington, at ABN Amro, said: "Pay growth remains well above the Bank's 4.5 per cent tolerance threshold and, with unemployment continuing to fall, it remains premature to talk of rate cuts."

part of the British Social Attitudes Survey, which found that the British have become very relaxed about sexual images ... I think the public is ahead of the politicians on this issue. Even senior police officers tell us we are too strict."

He is adamant there should be no relaxation for films where violence combines with pornography: "although I don't believe any film has a direct cause and effect on behaviour, I do believe that there is a drip-drip effect of showing rape as entertainment. It might eventually say to some men that women saying no, really mean yes."

David Aaronovitch

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INSIDE

The twin-speed labour market, page 3
Hamish McRae, Review, page 3

David Blunkett, the Employment Secretary, rejected warnings that Britain was on the brink of recession. He said the unemployment figures were "very good news indeed", and added: "This really does establish a rational balance into the argument - it doesn't suggest that all the problems are over."

The Bank of England yesterday said that underlying inflation would rise above the 2.5 per cent target next year, partly due to recent strong growth in earnings and the prospect of a national minimum wage. The Bank has also cut its forecasts for economic

growth, and Mr King said yesterday that there was now a one-in-eight chance of a recession next year.

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David Aaronovitch

Review, page 4

National centre planned to house dangerous paedophiles

A GOVERNMENT committee set up to oversee the release of dangerous sex offenders is planning the first national specialist unit dedicated to housing released paedophiles.

The unit would be made up of two facilities, one a holding centre and the other a treatment centre, and would cater for 50 serious offenders.

The Independent has learned that members of the committee are concerned about the public hostility to housing released offenders in the community and feel that a specialist unit is now the most viable option.

The difficulties in accommo-

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

dating such offenders were underlined yesterday with the announcement that one of Britain's most notorious paedophiles, Robert Oliver, would not be allowed to stay at a halfway house in a Midlands village.

The Langley House Trust, which runs the Wing Grange rehabilitation centre for low-risk offenders in Rutland, said Oliver would not agree to proposed restrictions on his movements.

The news appeared to throw into chaos plans to house up to 150 paedophiles who are due to

be released in the next two years without legal requirement for supervision. But yesterday Gill Mackenzie, a chief probation officer who sits on the committee - announced in May by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and consists of government officials, police and probation officers - revealed that a specialist paedophile unit was under consideration.

She said: "We are exploring the potential of developing a treatment and holding facility which are in close proximity to each other and can assist and support each other."

How to handle Oliver, page 6

BIOTECHNOLOGY companies were crowding last night after the scientist who claimed to have evidence that genetically modified foods could harm health was suspended from his job when his results were shown to be false.

Urgent independent checks at the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen found that Professor Arpad Pusztai had not, as he claimed in *Granada Television's World in Action* programme on Monday night, done experiments in which transgenic potatoes were fed to rats. Instead, the rats ate normal potatoes, spiked with a toxic protein that the extra genes - which were not present - might have made.

The effects are not comparable and the entire experiment must be redone, said Andrew Chesson, the institute's head of research. He said Professor Pusztai admitted that his claimed results were misleading.

"It is extremely embarrassing ... He was a very senior member of staff. We assumed his work was beyond reproach."

The news offered the first PR victory for biotechnology com-

panies, which have come under fierce attack this year from MPs, retailers and pressure groups over their development and marketing of genetically modified crops and foods.

Colin Merritt, technical director of the biotech giant Monsanto, said: "It is an awful mistake, and these revelations are absolute dynamite."

Monsanto spokesman Dan Verakis claimed the retraction proved that consumers had nothing to worry about from modified foods. "In just 48 hours we have gone from statements that genetically modified foods can harm immune systems to:

"Sorry, but it was bad information," he said. "Friends of the Earth and those types of groups went out and tried to promote an emotional and typical scaremongering attitude. It just goes to show that people should not overreact so quickly."

Friends of the Earth countered: "There can be no justification for allowing the commercial development of these crops until that research has been conducted, properly published and subjected to full peer-group review."

Dr Chesson said the re-run experiments would be published in six months' time.



Straw: units considered

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RAC club members voted "overwhelmingly" to sell off part of the organisation, giving each a £34,000 windfall

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HOME

Figures revealed yesterday that 17 of 25 rail operators are performing worse than a year ago.

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The Kenyan authorities yesterday announced the arrest of a number of people over the US embassy bomb.

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FOREIGN

Prosecutor Kenneth Starr could report to Congress as early as September on the Lewinsky affair.

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BUSINESS

Airtours, Britain's second biggest charter operator, will cut the number of cheap holidays next year despite increased profits

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Aston Villa have turned down Manchester United's "last offer" of £10m for their striker Dwight Yorke

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Mostly dry with PIMM'S breaking out towards early evening.

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Heart probe looks at 1,000 cases

A public inquiry into the Bristol heart surgery disaster will consider the cases of more than 1,000 children operated on over more than a decade. Page 7

Tuition fees 'may deter students'

Tuition fees may cause students to withdraw their university applications at the last moment. Page 8

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Internet rumours led to arrests

Police in Malaysia used a draconian security law to arrest two people alleged to have spread rumours of riots on an Internet news group. Page 11

Protest for kidnapped diplomats

150 protested outside Pakistan's embassy in Tehran to demand freedom for Iranian diplomats and a journalist held by the Afghan Taliban militia. Page 14

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Insurance merger costs surge

The cost of implementing the merger of insurance giants Commercial Union and General Accident has edged up from £300m to £320m. Page 16

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Bath sign NZ winger Jon Preston

Bath have signed Jon Preston, the New Zealand rugby union half-back, on a two-year contract. Page 23

THURSDAY REVIEW

20-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Hamish McRae

'Mr Blair and his colleagues will need to learn how to govern in bad times, when they are hated and being blamed for things beyond their control.' Page 4

Bidisha

'Women live in constant fear of violence from men, a very primitive, instinctive fear.' Page 4

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Recycled paper made on 41.2% of the newsprint for UK newspapers in the first half of 1998.

Drivers to face one-pint limit

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

THE DRINK-DRIVE limit is to be lowered to the equivalent of only one pint of beer in a new campaign to cut the number of alcohol-related deaths on the roads.

The Government is poised to push ahead in the autumn with plans to reduce the legal limit and bring the UK into line with other European Union countries. The move, expected to be announced at the Labour party conference next month, will target the small number of motorists who persistently ignore government warnings about drinking and driving.

The legal limit is likely to be cut from 80 milligrams of alco-

hol per 100 millilitres of blood to just 50 milligrams, effectively setting the maximum level of alcohol at just one pint, or two glasses of wine.

Anti drink-drive campaigners have long argued that the current limit is too vague as motorists know they can drink between one and two pints and avoid prosecution. The new limit is to form a centrepiece of the Government's new Road Safety Strategy, to be published in the autumn, and will be accompanied by measures to give police greater enforcement



Baroness Hayman: Keen

number of alcohol-related deaths falling from 1,643 in 1979 to 540 in 1995. However, ministers are known to be concerned that the figures have not come down any further in the past three years.

The Department of Transport refused to confirm that the one-pint limit had been agreed, but it is understood that ministers are committed to using the groundswell of public support on the issue to push through the plan.

The new strategy follows months of consultation with the drinks industry, motoring organisations and safety groups. Brewers have tried to

block moves to lower the limit, claiming it would cost them millions in lost income and negligible impact on accidents.

Baroness Hayman, former minister for roads, was the main backer of the idea and some campaigners were worried that her recent move to the Department of Health had killed the plan. Her replacement, Lord Whitty, and the newly appointed Transport Minister, Dr John Reid, have now made clear that they are as equally enthusiastic about the new limit. A spokesman for the DoT said that the new strategy would address the "hard core" of drink-drivers,

most of whom are either young or middle-aged men. "The figures have come down, but 540 deaths a year still represent 10 people a week dying in accidents that are preventable," he said. "Injuries are caused where motorists are driving within the legal limit, but their driving ability is still impaired."

A recent survey of Automobile Association members found 80 per cent in favour of a reduction of the limit. An AA spokeswoman said: "The limit should be lowered, but there should also be targeting of persistent offenders by giving the police powers in law to enforce the limit."

Sky TV launches digital service

BY JANE ROBINS
Media Correspondent

BSKYB YESTERDAY launched a range of mix-and-match programme deals for its new digital satellite service.

For £11.99 a month BSkyB customers will receive a Family Package of around 40 channels which will carry all the existing free-to-air services of the BBC along with lifestyle, documentary, music and children's channels.

Around 15 channels will be available for £9.99 in individual packages which the company will call Kids and Music, Knowledge, Life Style and Popular Mix. These middle-range deals are likely to escalate the warfare that has broken out between BSkyB and its digital competitor ONdigital.

Popular Mix alone, at £8.99, will include most of the channels featuring an ONdigital's entire network. Overall, BSkyB will offer 200 channels at a price of £29.99, to ONdigital's total of 30 channels.

For £6.99, said a BSkyB spokesman, the customer can pay less than the BBC licence fee for a six-plus channel package that includes all the BBC free-to-air services plus additional channels. The company calls this deal its Value package. It is being touted as a challenge to the BBC. Industry insiders were asking why Sky viewers would want to pay the licence fee when they have already paid for all the BBC channels.

BSkyB's chief executive Mark Booth stressed the flexibility of the packages. "If you want to watch 25 films on Sky Digital, you can. If you want to look at 10 different documentary channels, you can."

Business, page 16



Minister Adam Ingram announces moves to support the victims Justin Kernaghan

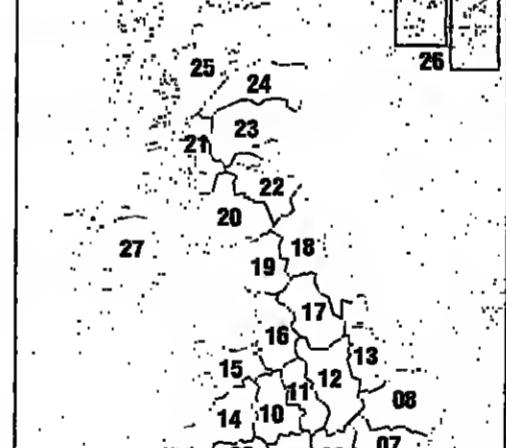
BRITAIN TODAY

British Isles weather

Heavy rain in western Scotland will ease, but it will remain overcast and foggy with drizzle. Eastern Scotland will also have a spell of rain, although skies will brighten in the late afternoon as the rain clears. Rain in Northern Ireland will ease to a little drizzle in places but it will remain mostly cloudy. Northern England and northern Wales will cloud over with rain breaking out in places. Southern Wales and remaining parts of England will be dry with sunny spells.

Outlook for the next few days

Friday will be unsettled with a lot of cloud across England and Wales and rain in the north and west, mainly over hills and coasts. In Scotland and Northern Ireland, rain will clear to blustery showers. Saturday will be showery in the north and west but dry in the south and east. A spell of rain is likely for most parts of the UK on Sunday but this will not reach the far north of Scotland and south-east England until late in the day.

**Air quality**

Yesterday's readings

Location	Mod	Gd
London S England	Mod	Mod
Wales	Mod	Mod
C England	Mod	Mod
N England	Mod	Mod
Scotland	Mod	Mod
N Ireland	Mod	Mod

Outlook for today

Location	Mod	Gd
London	Mod	Gd
England	Mod	Gd
Wales	Mod	Gd
C England	Mod	Gd
N England	Mod	Gd
Scotland	Mod	Gd
N Ireland	Mod	Gd

AA Vodafone Roadwatch

Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min at all times (inc VAT)

INDEPENDENT Weatherline

For the latest forecast dial 0891 50009 followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the above map. Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min at all times (inc VAT)

**High tides****HT****HT****Lighting-up times Sun & moon**

London 06 15 7.1 18.26 7.0 Belfast 21 00 10 05 57 Liverpool 05 57 9.5 15.52 8.9 Birmingham 20 37 10 05 48

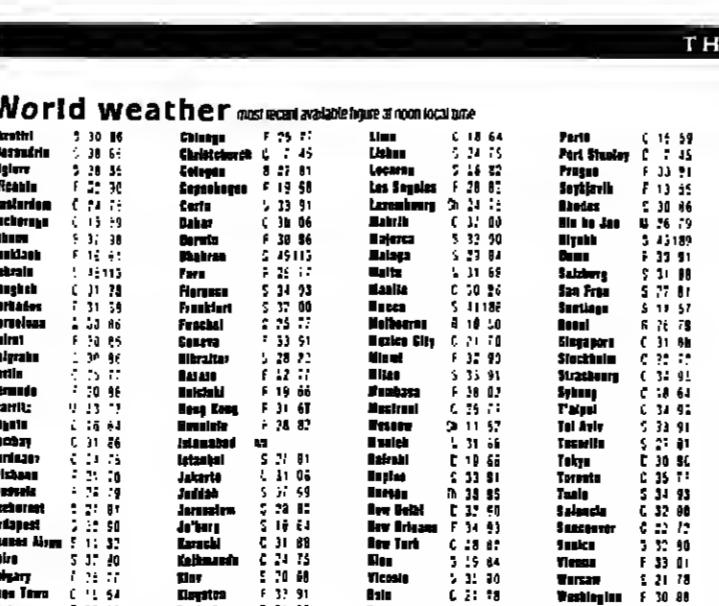
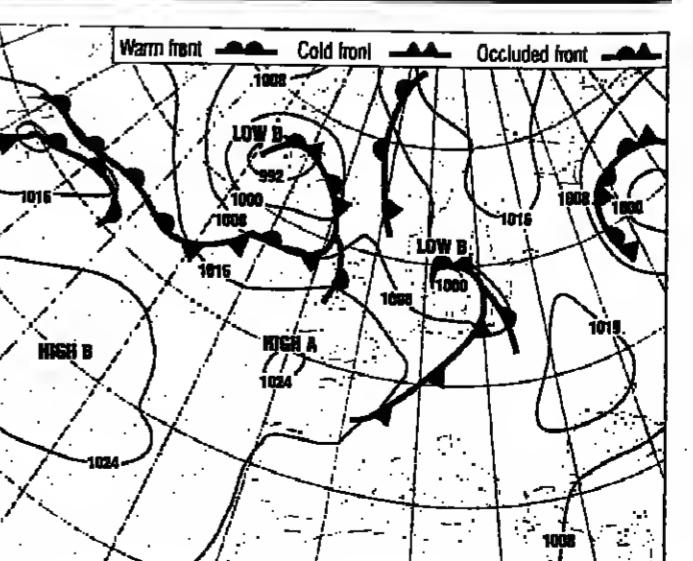
Cardiff 10 36 11.2 12.05 12.5 Bristol 20 37 10 05 54

Glasgow 04 53 3.7 17.20 3.5 London 20 26 10 05 46

Dun Laoghaire 03 43 4.3 16.22 3.9 Manchester 20 42 10 05 44

Newcastle 20 45 10 05 38

Height measured in metres

THE WORLD**World weather****Atlantic chart, noon today**

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The great jobs divide that splits Britain

Why to hold infinitives is

BY WILLIAM HILL

ENGLISH TEACHING NEEDS TO REACT TO THE CHANGES IN SOCIETY, says William Hill, head of English at the University of Nottingham. He believes that teachers must be aware of the social context in which they work and adapt their teaching accordingly. He says: "The teacher's role is to help students develop the skills and knowledge needed for the future. This means understanding the needs of the students and providing them with the right kind of support. It also means being aware of the wider social context in which the students live and work, and adapting the curriculum to reflect this. This involves not only teaching English language skills, but also teaching students how to think critically, how to communicate effectively, and how to work collaboratively. It also involves providing students with opportunities to apply what they have learned in real-life situations. This is why it is important for teachers to be flexible and responsive to the needs of their students, and to be willing to change their teaching methods and approaches as required. This is also why it is important for teachers to be aware of the latest research in English teaching and to keep up-to-date with developments in the field. This will help them to provide the best possible education for their students and to prepare them for success in the future."

The great jobs divide that splits Britain

Sky TV launches digital service

IF THE jobs market is as rosy as yesterday's statistics claimed, why is it that Mark Kaczmarek, a skilled worker, cannot find permanent employment, while Mark Jones has more offers of work than he could possibly take up?

The answer is simple. Mr Kaczmarek is a tin miner, an expert in an industry that has had its day, while Mr Jones is an IT specialist, who operates in a market where people can pick and choose where they work - and virtually name their price.

The raft of messages on the economy yesterday appeared to paint a rosy picture of the state of the nation's finances, especially in terms of the jobs market. Unemployment is falling again while the increase in average earnings fell, indicating the economy is not overheating. No wonder the Government leapt on the figures, saying they were a big setback for the "doom and gloom merchants".

But the euphoria over the jobless figures will mean little to the thousands of workers who are still recovering from the news that they are to lose their jobs. And it will mean even less to the hundreds of employers who cannot find skilled employees - even at exorbitant wages.

Mr Kaczmarek, who was made redundant as a Cornish tin miner in March, said miners used to have a skill that took them all over the world. "They

BY STEVE LEVINSON

used to say that at the bottom of every hole there was a Cornishman."

But just as mining was dying in Britain, other countries were no longer opening their doors to foreign workers as they once had.

He said: "Mining's a very physical job. You work in extreme heat and it's heavy work. It wasn't how strong you were, you mined with your heart."

Now he fears for his future. "We're very restricted in Cornwall. There's a limited amount of manual work in Cornwall but factory work is totally out. A lot

of the work that is around is part-time. I feel very bitter about this."

"I'm not too old to retrain, but the job I hold dear is just not there."

Meanwhile Mr Jones, an IT specialist, said: "My prospects are excellent at the moment. I get calls all the time offering me work - almost every week."

"I can't see any problems finding work, even in the long term, because there is such a shortage of people in my field."

The answer to the community lies in the "two-speed economy" - the phrase that has become the cliché of the late 1990s. One half of the economy

- service industries such as finance, banking, computing and catering - are booming, while the other half - mainly manufacturing industry - is suffering.

According to Incomes Data Services, the jobs market "is not a two-speed economy, it is a seven speed one".

The labour market is complex, fragmented and localised. The reality of whether someone can pick and choose between a host of job offers or whether they face a life on the dole is dependent on what skills they have and where they live.

Leading employers in the industrial heartlands of the Midlands and North-east have all

cut jobs. On Monday Grove Worldwide said it was closing its Sunderland plant with 670 job losses,而 Rover last month announced 1,500 job cuts and Siemens, the German electronics giant, stunned the North-east with the news it would shut its one-year-old Tyne-side plant with the loss of 1,100 jobs.

Even as economists were absorbing yesterday's data, Halla, a South Korean engineering firm, announced it laying off 1,100 staff.

Meanwhile in the South-east, with the unemployment rate at 2.8 per cent compared with the national average of

4.7 per cent, jobs are plentiful. Mr Kaczmarek might find it extraordinary that in London, hotels are advertising vacancies for chefs paying £28,000 a year or that building firms cannot find bricklayers and carpenters for £10 an hour. It is still the case that in many parts of the economy there are shortages of key people whether skilled or unskilled.

But look again for a consistent pattern and once again it is difficult to find. In engineering, for example, where the screams of economic pain are loudest, there are specific identifiable skill shortages. Graham Mackenzie, of the

Engineering Employers Federation, identifies a shortage of automotive design engineers in the West Midlands, a global shortage of aerospace design engineers, as well as discreet geographical pockets of skills problems like CNC machinists on the South Coast.

Then, of course, there is the ongoing shortage of computer and IT specialists which has become associated with sorting out the millennium bug.

Many in the industry, however, point out shortages will continue into the medium- and long-term, largely because big corporations now continually upgrade their computer sys-

tems. A spokesman for Income Data Services (IDS), the labour market analysts, said: "The people in greatest demand are in IT and have been now for some time. There are also shortages in construction."

And if anyone's wondering where all the bricks have gone, a quick trip across the Irish Sea will provide the answer.

The Celtic Tiger's construction boom has sucked in not only former emigrants but many thousands of English builders as well. On many a Dublin building site, the most common accent is a Yorkshire one.

The IDS spokesman said: "A lot of moveable Irish workers have gone back and quite a lot of their English construction colleagues have gone over with them. It has created a gap. The area which has really shrunk substantially is anything unskilled in manufacturing."

A recent survey identified an extraordinary variety of industries which continue to report recruitment problems. Among them all levels of secretarial workers, accounts clerks, LGV drivers, telephonists and receptionists.

This is why a casual look at the classified ads pages or at the vacancies in recruitment office windows, provides a better guide to the true state of the labour market than the high profile announcements from Siemens and Rover.

... while salaries in privatised utilities rise by 74%

A "GOLDEN HELLO" of £250,000 was paid by Stagecoach, the rail and bus operator, to its new chief within only three weeks of moving into his job, flouting the Chancellor's call for pay restraint in the boardroom.

The payment of the bonus to former Southern Water chief executive Mike Kinski came as big business ignored a Treasury outcry over big payouts for fat cats in the privatised utilities.

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Stephen Byers, accused the utility bosses of being "greedy" but business leaders shrugged off his threat of legislation against big pay rises in

the boardrooms. Mr Kinski, 45, will be paid an annual salary of £360,000 by Stagecoach.

Rail users groups were furious over the bonus for joining the company, which runs South West trains, one of the most heavily criticised services in the country. Commuters would see the bonus as a "sick joke", said Jonathan Bray, group director of the campaign group, Save Our Railways.

It came as the Treasury produced a survey showing that the fat cats in gas and water in-

dustries are getting fatter, with salaries soaring by up to 74 per cent.

Big business defended the rises as the going rate, and their defiance will be increased by the disclosure that the Government is failing to keep its own house in order by allowing some public sector agencies to pay double-figure increases to their top officials.

Keith Jones, Chief Executive of the Medicines Control Agency, had a 14 per cent rise last year taking his total remuneration including bonuses, but excluding pension contributions, from £91,513 to £104,234. The Treasury insisted that higher pay should be a reward for higher performance, but there was a £2,919 increase - a rise of 4 per cent - in the salary for the new chief executive of the Child Support Agency, to £96,655 - the most heavily criticised government agency.

John Redwood, the Tory trade and industry spokesman, said: "It is a bit rich for the Government to lecture the private sector when it is paying double-figure increases to public sector staff in the upper levels."

Tim Melville-Ross, director-general of the Institute of Directors, said the increase of 18 per cent was the same as for

the directors of the largest companies generally.

Big rises were: BT chief executive Sir Peter Bonfield's total package was £1,101,000, an increase of 46 per cent.

Typical boardroom salaries at British Gas and Centrica were in excess of £300,000, up 8 per cent on last year. At Centrica, chief executive Roy Gardner earned a total package of £493,000. At British Gas, his counterpart David Varney got £427,245, a 25 per cent increase.

In the electricity sector the average package was up 9 per cent, to £241,000. At Southern Electric, chief executive Jim Forbes earned £399,000, an increase of 45 per cent. At Sealboard, group managing director John Weight picked up £213,000, a 51 per cent increase. At Scottish Power, chief executive Ian Robinson collected £287,345, a 25 per cent increase.

Severn Trent Water group chief executive Vic Cocker made £293,000, up 22 per cent; at South West, finance director Ken Hill earned £198,000, a 43 per cent increase; at Yorkshire, chief executive Kevin Bond was on £298,000, a 69 per cent increase.

Leading article, Review, page 3

Why to boldly split infinitives is all right

BY WILLIAM HARTSTON

ENGLISH TEACHERS no longer need tear their hair out when recalcitrant students repeatedly split infinitives. The *New Oxford Dictionary of English* has decreed for the first time that it is acceptable to completely split your verbs.

The dictionary, which has been hailed as the most important new English dictionary for 100 years, was published yesterday and, says its publishers, is the first genuinely international dictionary of English as a world language.

It is "the first English dictionary written from scratch by Oxford for over 70 years", according to its publisher. The Oxford University Press started from scratch to redefine every word in the language and its contemporary meaning. Helen McManners, a spokeswoman for OUP, said: "We started compiling it six years ago. It was an absolutely monumental task."

The dictionary contains 350,000 words, including more than 2,000 new ones - from "shock jocks" to "alcopops" and "climbed down" - and also gives advice on the minefield of political correctness.

The use of black, white or person of colour are deemed acceptable, but readers are warned that "spinster", "squaw" and "barely" are offensive. "Pretense" and "authoress" are now considered to be sexist and patronising. The advice is contained in shaded usage boxes which follow certain words.

WHAT THE DICTIONARY SAYS

"The dislike of split infinitives (eg to boldly go where no man has gone before) is long-standing but... not well-founded, being based on an analogy with Latin. In Latin, infinitives consist of only one word (eg Crescere - to grow, amare - to love), which makes them impossible to split; therefore, so the argument goes, they should not be split in English either."

"But English is not the same as Latin. In particular, the placing of an adverb in English is extremely important in giving the appropriate emphasis - to go boldly where no man has gone before, where the infinitive is not split, conveys a different emphasis or sounds awkward."

"In the modern context, it also insists that the word 'bank' is intransitive. The core meaning of bank is 'informal, verb [with obj.] is given as 'knock or hit (someone or something) so as to cause a reverberating sound', but the secondary meaning, [no obj.] Brit, is 'have sexual intercourse'. In other words two people may bank together, but one may not bank another. As far as Oxford is concerned, if you want to do any transitive banking, the correct term is 'shag'. However, while banking is merely informal, shagging [with obj.] is vulgar, which follow certain words."



some traditionalists may continue to uphold the split infinitive as an error in English. However, in standard English the principle of allowing split infinitives is broadly accepted as both normal and useful."

The new approach has, in general, undeniably led to a dictionary with simpler, clearer, shorter definitions that many in the past. There is also much good advice on contentious issues such as the pronunciation and the wisdom of splitting infinitives (which is viewed as "both normal and useful" without even mentioning that doing it too often is terrible style).

But one cannot help worry about the universal cognitive prototypes that led to an intransitive bank.

RAC membership votes to sell off motoring service

BY KAREN EDWARDS

it opened, it benefited from privacy and discretion - Lord Curzon conducted a clandestine courtship there. The spires Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean were also members.

City lawyers had cast doubt on the legality of the self-of-plan. They believed that clause 4 in the club's articles of association prevented full members from gaining from the windfall.

The RAC, in response, said the deal was watertight.

Speaking after the vote yesterday, Mr King said: "It was a most overwhelming vote in favour."

"We are quite optimistic that it will not be referred to the Monopoly and Mergers. The AA would still be the largest and the RAC and Green Flag would still be number two."

"It would create greater competition in the market, and that is healthy."

Mr King also said the thousands of roadside RAC users would benefit from the deal, while the history surrounding the RAC club house would be protected.

He said: "We are happy because we feel that really the association will be able to provide a greater service to the members, while the club house will remain and will retain its history."

"It is a positive day and a positive step forward for the RAC."



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Humane methods too costly, say farmers

BY GARY FINN

HUNDREDS OF British pig farmers stopped and searched lorries at a Lincolnshire port yesterday in an attempt to halt imports of cheap factory-farmed pork.

The farmers launched a one-day action at Humingham Dock in a protest designed to highlight the plight of the UK pig industry which they say is close to financial ruin.

The demonstration targeted lorries from Denmark, one of the main suppliers of pork products to Britain's supermarkets. Danish pig farmers use the cheaper stall and tether rearing method, a practice which is banned in the UK from next January allowing them to undercut their British rivals.

The protest passed off peacefully with no arrests, according to Humberside Police, and disruption to port business was minimal.

An estimated 800 farmers, some arriving on tractors and muck spreaders, carried placards and waved banners.



The return to more humane methods has cost an estimated £500 per pig leaving the average-sized pig farm with a bill of around £150,000.

Digby Scott, spokesman for the British Pig Support Group, said: "The situation for a large number of farmers is desperate. Prices for British meat have slumped to their lowest level in 60 years and many farmers are having to quit the business. Farmers have cried wolf in the past but the industry this time is at crisis point."

"Shoppers have told us they want British pork and bacon because it is safer and better, so why won't the supermarkets sell it?"

Supermarkets insisted they always tried to buy British.

Sainsbury's said 100 per cent of pre-packed pork was from the UK, but only 50 per cent of its bacon was British. Tesco and Safeway said they would only buy from farms where "sow stalls" were not used.

Asda said 90 per cent of its fresh pork was British but it did buy in French loin pork because of short domestic supply.

Lorry drivers entering the port were stopped, given pork sandwiches, and told the harm importing pig meat is doing to livelihoods.

The action marks a stepping up of the campaign to raise the profile of the British pig industry which has been overshadowed by the BSE beef crisis.

Campaigners say the pig industry is losing some £200m a year through depressed prices and a flood of cheap imports as wholesalers take advantage of the strong pound to buy more pork from abroad.

The industry faces further problems from new legislation



While larger pig enclosures are more humane than cages (left), they can cost a farm up to £150,000



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30 bishops support gay Christians

BY CLARE GARNER

THIRTY ENGLISH bishops who have never before publicly registered support for lesbian and gay Christians have pledged to "reflect, pray and work" for their "full inclusion" in the life of the Anglican Church.

A total of 146 bishops from the world-wide Anglican Communion, including eight primates, have signed a pastoral statement which insists that the resolution on sexuality emerging from the Lambeth Conference is not the last word.

There are even signatures from parts of the world which were assumed to be universally hostile to a relaxation of the church's rules, notably two bishops from central Africa, one from Brazil, and six from South Africa, including the Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev Ntongekulu Ndungane, who chaired the conference's section on human sexuality, and the Bishop of Johannesburg the Rt Rev Duncan Buchanan, whose sub-section drafted the motion on homosexuality.

After three weeks of polarised debate, a resolution declaring homosexual practice "incompatible with Scripture", and ruling out blessings of homosexual partnerships or ordinations of practising homosexuals, was passed by a vote of hands: 536 in favour, 70 against and 45 abstentions. All concessions to the liberals were eradicated, except for a promise to "listen to homosexuals".

The result was widely regarded as an uncompromising defeat for the Western liberal wing of the Anglican Church. However, lesbian and gay Christians are capitalising on the fact that the issue is now on the church's agenda and maintain that the conservative resolution could, in the long run, work in their favour.

The Rev Colin Coward, founder of Changing Attitudes

- a group of Christian homosexuals whose presentation to the conference was cancelled because bishops from Uganda, Chile, America and Australia threatened to go home if it went ahead - believes that the "apparent defeat" at Canterbury has become "a great opportunity for change and progress".

"Far from achieving a final verdict on lesbian and gay sexuality, the conference has provided a new impetus for the church to explore the experience of lesbian and gay Christians and affirm their calling and ministry as lay and ordained members of the church," he said.

Thirty three bishops from the Church of England three of whom had already pledged their support for gay Christians, four from the Church in Wales, seven from the Scottish Episcopal Church and three from the Church of Ireland, promised lesbian and gay Christians: "You, our sisters and brothers in Christ, deserve a more thorough hearing than you received over the past three weeks. We will work to make that so."

Mr Coward described the UK contingent as remarkable and unprecedented. "Never before has such a large number committed themselves publicly to the support of lesbian and gay Christians," he said.

In the statement, which is addressed to lesbian and gay Anglicans, the bishops say: "We apologise for any sense of rejection that has occurred ... This letter is a sign of our commitment to listen to you and reflect with you theologically and spiritually on your lives and ministries. It is our deep concern that you do not feel abandoned by your church and that you know of our continued respect and support."

IN BRIEF

Remains spotted in 'Gaul' wreck

WHAT APPEARS to be remains of crew members of the trawler Gaul, lost in mysterious circumstances 24 years ago, have been spotted in the wreck. Remote-controlled cameras from a survey ship entered the wreck yesterday and filmed the inside of the vessel's bridge of eight cabins. The find may explain what happened to the Gaul, which sank off Norway in 1974, with the loss of 36 lives.

New car rolls over in road tests

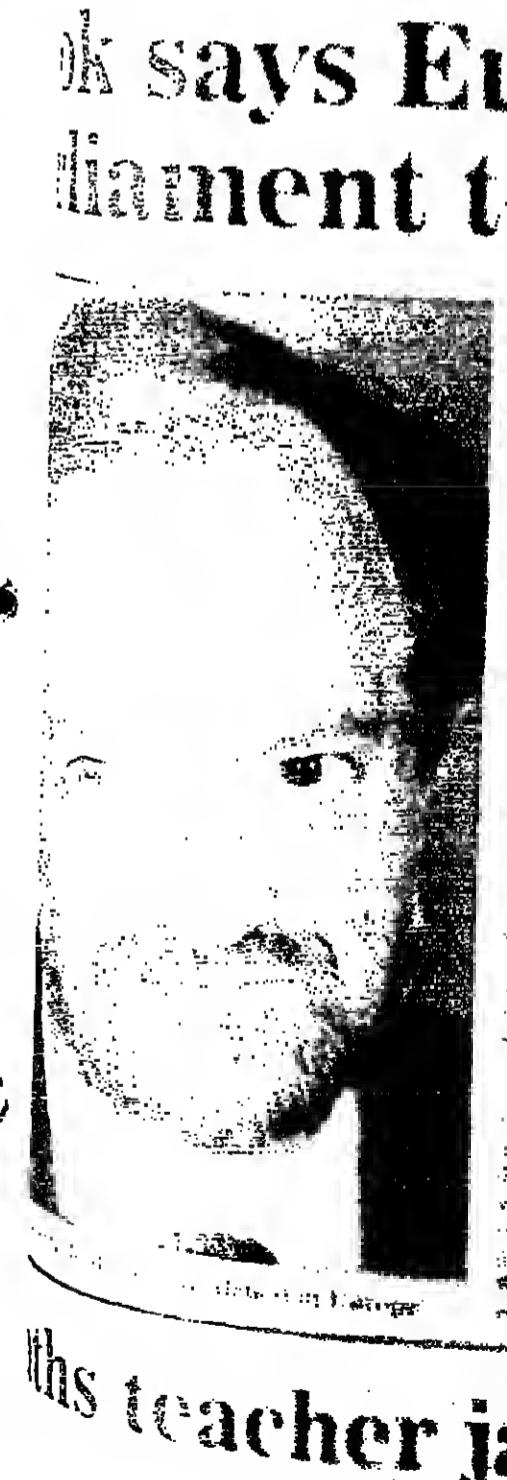
A NEW car due to go on sale in the UK next month twice rolled over in road tests. Autocar magazine claims the rolls occurred when the Daewoo Matiz was being reversed. But Daewoo said the roll was the result of a manoeuvre which had no relevance to everyday driving.

Missing children found in Dublin

THREE CHILDREN missing from their home in Britain for the past three years have been found in Dublin. Police discovered the children, aged eight to 18, after acting on a tip-off from neighbours in the Tallaght suburb of the Irish capital. They also detained a man.

Police face action over CS spray

A SECOND case alleging that police assaulted a mentally ill patient with CS spray is being prepared by lawyers. It is alleged that the woman was sprayed in the face by officers as she was being detained in her own home under the Mental Health Act.



This teacher ja

JULY 1998

Big rise in trains failing to run on time

PRIVATE TRAIN companies will be forced to produce "action plans" to improve punctuality on the nation's rail network after official figures revealed yesterday that 17 of the 25 rail operators are performing worse than a year ago.

Nearly one in five trains are "officially" late on key commuter routes into London, and Great Western - a former InterCity route - is being fined nearly £100,000 a month for failing to keep its services running on time.

Punctuality has declined on 48 of the routes operated by train companies and improved on more than 16, the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising reported.

Passengers were "clearly less impressed with the service", said John O'Brien, the franchising director. "The general reduction in satisfaction levels suggest poor punctuality colours passengers' perceptions of the service in other areas."

"These results continue to paint a very unsatisfactory picture of performance as a whole," said Mr O'Brien. Officials expect all operators to produce plans aimed at improving punctuality within the next two months.

Customer satisfaction surveys showed that many passengers were dissatisfied with the poor performance. On *Anglia Railways*, there was no significant improvement in customer satisfaction levels in any of 22 separate categories of service.

There were also no significant improvements in satis-

BY RANDEEP RAMESH
Transport Correspondent

faction levels on Connex South Eastern and Merseyrail Electrics, while a number of other companies could boast improved satisfaction in just one category.

The punctuality and reliability figures compare performances for the 25 train operators for the year ending 27 June 1998, with the period 12 months earlier.

Trains run by Great Western, dubbed "Late Western" by its customers, are so unreliable that some passengers are moving home to towns with more punctual services.

Lucy Pinnock, 38, has abandoned Westbury in Wiltshire and now drives 25 miles to pick up a service operated by South West Trains at Salisbury.

Mrs Pinnock is preparing to sell her four-bedroom, 200-year-old town house. "The prices are much higher there, so I will only be able to afford a smaller, two or three-bedroom property in Salisbury," she said.

Thames Trains - which links London with Surrey and Oxfordshire - fared even worse on punctuality. The most recent figures showed that nearly 20 per cent of trains are late.

Commuters in Birmingham are also suffering. Chiltern, which has recently bought new rolling stock and invested £18m in new tracks, has seen punctuality drop. Three months ago, only 9 per cent of services were labelled late, but this has now risen to nearly 16 per cent.

On reliability, 33 routes de-

tified as one of the most improved services - although the poor performance of its Scottish route has recently bought new rolling stock and invested £18m in new tracks, has seen punctuality drop. Three months ago, only 9 per cent of services were labelled late, but this has now risen to nearly 16 per cent.

On reliability, 33 routes de-

cined, 21 were better and nine were about the same.

Mr O'Brien's office blamed part of the poor punctuality on Thames and Great Western to Railtrack "infrastructure" problems, which also affected other operators such as Wales and West and the Cardiff train company.

Railtrack, the owner of the nation's track and signalling, has been blamed by many operators for applying speed restrictions and hampering performance.

However, yesterday the company hit back saying that "while once being responsible for nearly 70 per cent of all train delays, that figure has fallen to a little over 43 per cent".

The Association of Train Operating Companies, which represents the 25 private operators, said the results were "disappointing" but said the companies were victims of their own success.

"A major cause is the expansion of the network - 7 per cent more passengers, 50,000 more trains and many new services which has placed serious demands on rolling stock and staff," said Giles Fearnley, chief executive of Prism Rail, which owns five private rail operators.

Cook says Europe needs second parliament to curb bureaucrats

A SECOND chamber for Europe made up of MPs is being considered as part of a fundamental review of policy on Europe ordered by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary.

Mr Cook has ordered two key officials to carry out a "brainstorming" exercise on ways of limiting the power of Brussels over the national member states, to be put forward at the Vienna summit later this year.

He believes a new forum for members of the national parliaments could act as a second check alongside the European Parliament, on the power of the unelected Brussels bureaucrats.

"We need to look at ways in which the national parliaments meet together regularly," he said.

The European Parliament does a very useful job, but the missing link is tying in the national parliaments with the work of Europe."

Tory Eurosceptics last night scoffed at the idea of a second chamber for Europe. John Redwood said it would revive an unelected European chamber that had been abolished, and insisted that the Westminster Parliament needed more checks on what min-

isters were doing in Europe.

There will be suspicions among Eurosceptics that it could create another talking shop in Europe, with big expenses but little action.

Mr Cook's review of European policy is being carried out within the Foreign Office, but he has carefully tried to avoid a clash with Number 10 Downing Street.

The Foreign Secretary has embraced the Prime Minister's phrase about the need for a "third way" on Europe. He has put in charge of the review Robert Cooper, the second-in-command at the Royal Embassy, and Richard Clarke, head of the Foreign Office political unit.

"There is a democratic deficit in Europe - people don't feel that Europe is accountable to them. They feel that institutions are remote and don't pay any attention to their view."

The only way you can meet that deficit is by tackling it via democratic institutions in which the public have confidence and with which they identify.

"This is first of all their parliaments, and secondly the re-

gional governments of the various states. So the way that you reconnect Europe with popular legitimate and democratic support is through these democratic forums which are vibrant."

Mr Cook believes that making Europe more accountable will help to erase the image of the EU being concerned with regulations on straight bananas and outlawing Women's Institute jam.

His remarks in the New Statesman will confirm the impression that Mr Cook is shifting decisively in favour of Britain's entry to the single currency by answering fears about the drift towards a federal Europe with plans for more democratic accountability.

The Foreign Secretary said the longer the euro was in place and a success, "the more the economic balance will tilt towards Britain joining rather than standing on the sidelines".

Whitehall sources last night said the idea of a second chamber for Europe was not official policy and was being floated as part of the review. Another key objective he listed is to replace directives issued by the European Commission with European standards that allow nation states more flexibility.



Robin Cook points to 'democratic deficit in Europe'

Maths teacher jailed for armed raids

BY CATHY COMMERFORD

A MATHS teacher at a select girls school has been jailed for a string of armed robberies after his mother told him to give himself up.

Andrew Rogers, 26, resorted to raiding off-licences by night while teaching A level maths at the Weald of Kent Grammar School for Girls in Tonbridge, Kent, after running up debts by moonlighting at Sainsbury's as a cleaner before school, he took to raiding Unwins and Victoria Wine shops using an unloaded air pistol and a scarf.

The last robbery failed when a member of staff chased him down the street in Guildford with a hammer.

Rogers, who seemed bewildered when he finally gave himself up, told the police: "It was as though somebody else was doing the robberies. It didn't dawn on me until I was being chased down the street

by a man with a hammer."

His defence barrister, Andrew Rodger, said: "In floods of tears he told his brother, but he was going to wait until after a school trip to London before going to the police, because he didn't want to disappoint his pupils."

He appeared before Maidstone Crown Court yesterday and pleaded guilty to three

robbery charges and three charges of having a firearm with intent. He was sentenced to four years in jail.

Those staff still working at the school during the school holidays refused to comment on their colleague.

The only comment they gave was that Rogers had left the school "by mutual consent" on 2 June.



Passengers at Paddington in west London. Great Western, which operates out of the station, is being fined nearly £100,000 a month for poor punctuality. *Adrian Dennis*

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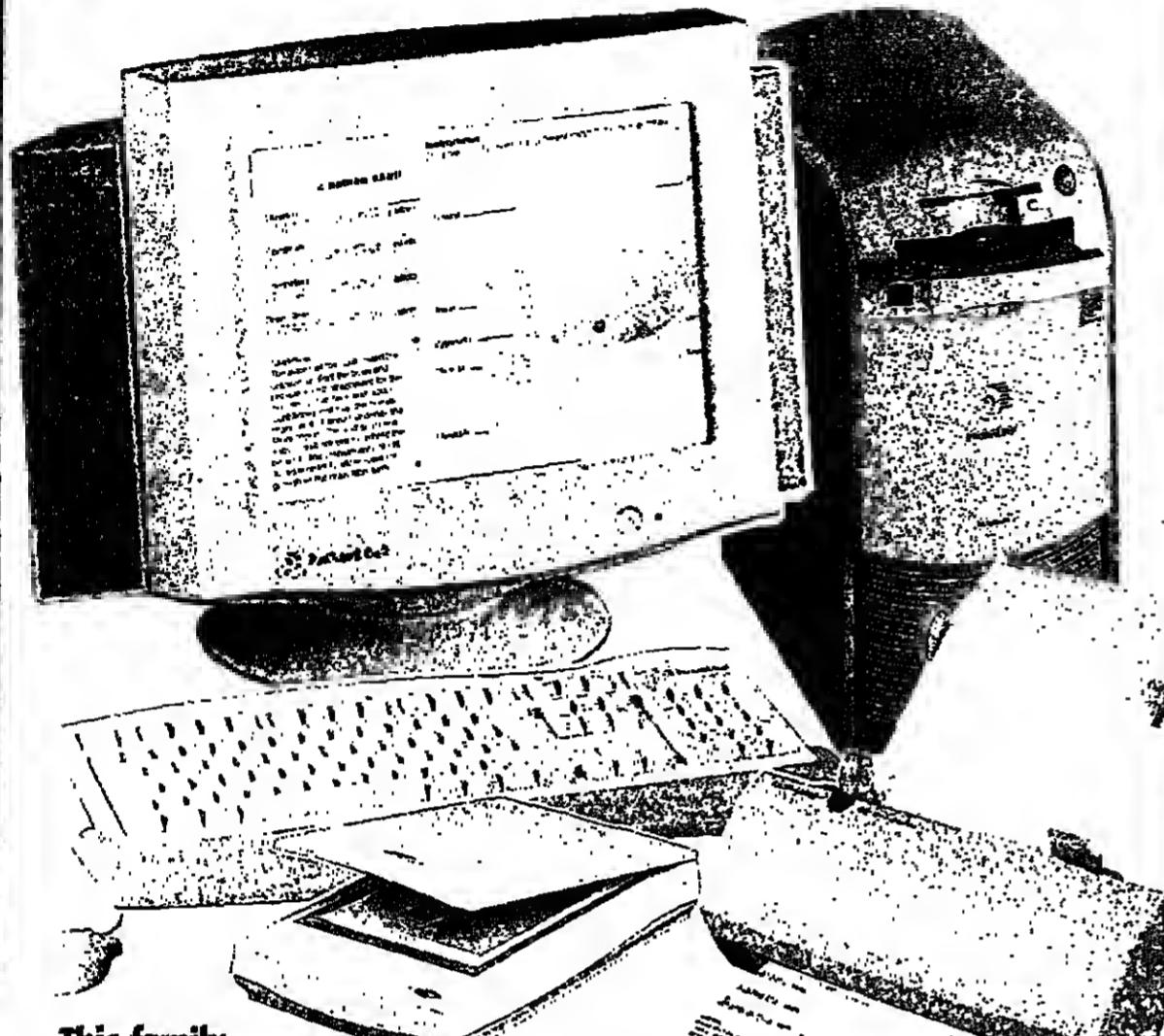
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Charity refuses to house paedophile



Villagers in Wing, Rutland, protest against paedophile Robert Oliver living in their midst Brian Harris

IT IS now almost a year since the paedophile Robert Oliver was released from prison and the search for somewhere to put him continues.

An object of public hatred from almost the first moment he became a free man, he has been hounded from town to town. A police cell and a psychiatric treatment unit have provided temporary respite but nobody is prepared to give him a long-term home.

The decision by the Langley House Trust to refuse him a place at its Wing Grange rehabilitation hostel in Rutland shows the immense problem the Home Office faces in accommodating more than 100 sex offenders who are due to be released without supervision in the next two years.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, had personally intervened in Oliver's proposed move to Wing Grange, trying to reassure an irate local community that the predatory paedophile posed them no risk.

But yesterday the charity decided that Oliver's presence would be too damaging to its local reputation and the work it was doing with other clients.

So Oliver, who spent four

months in a Sussex police cell at a public cost of £50,000, will continue to stay in an expensive treatment unit in Milton Keynes which is not designed for long-term care.

Oliver's former paedophile associate, Sidney Cooke, remains in a West Country police station more than three months after being set free. The slight rumours of Cooke's presence have provoked angry public demonstrations, which turned to violence in Bristol

when a mob turned on police whom they accused of protecting a sex offender.

So vitriolic has been the public reaction that Mr Straw is looking at producing booklets advising parents on more measured ways of protecting their children from abuse.

In May, the Home Secretary set up a national committee to examine the best means of accommodating the paedophiles awaiting imminent release from jail. The eight members are Rhys Hughes, 64, who was sentenced to 10 years for offences against children and is reportedly planning to move next door to a girl he raped when she was four when he is released from jail later this year.

Also set to be freed are Lemire Smith, a convicted paedophile and former associate of Cooke's, and Jason Trask, 49, who was jailed in 1993 for assaulting four boys.

Yesterday it emerged that Mr Straw's committee is looking to set up the first national specialist centre to house the released offenders.

The paedophiles are under no legal obligation to be supervised and would have to sign a voluntary agreement to abide

by the centre's rules. But many are sufficiently scared by the public anger at child abuse that they are apparently prepared to do so.

The Prison Reform Trust, which has been inundated with letters and telephone calls from sex offenders, fearful about their release, said it was producing a leaflet to let such prisoners know where they stand in the eyes of the law.

Trust spokeswoman Clare Sparks said: "They think that anybody will be able to find out who is on the sex offenders register and they won't be able to have a normal life."

The leaflet will explain that even sex offenders who receive short sentences will go on the register for a minimum of five years but that access is restricted to official authorities.

Some experts believe, however, that the public obsession with predatory paedophiles is masking the real risk to children. David Wilson, a criminologist at the University of Central England who worked with sex offenders, said: "The majority of children who are abused are attacked by a family member or someone they know rather than a stranger."

Future of energy is green

BY CHARLES ARTHUR

Technology Editor

RENEWABLE ENERGY sources such as the sun, wind and waves could generate half of Britain's electricity by 2025, according to a leaked government study.

Such sources would be cheaper than electricity from new nuclear or coal-fired power stations, according to *New Scientist* magazine today.

At present, such renewable sources provide less than one per cent of Britain's energy needs. But that could rise 60-fold by 2025 if there was the right investment, according to the magazine's report of an internal briefing given last month to the Department of Trade and Industry's 14-member Energy Advisory Panel by its head of renewables, Gordon Bevan.

However, Mr Bevan's most ambitious recommendation is that ministers fulfil their commitment to produce 10 per cent of energy from renewable sources by 2010.

Scotland's forgotten film archive rescued

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN

Scotland Correspondent

MORE THAN 13,000 rolls of film that could contain precious footage from Scotland's cultural and historical past are finally to get an airing.

The collection has been gathering dust in a storeroom for 20 years but will now be made available to the public, thanks to a £277,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund announced yesterday.

Among the cans of film stored unopened and uncatalogued in a basement in Glasgow may be one of the lost masterpieces of early Scottish cinema, perhaps the first version of *Rob Roy* from 1911, or *Fido Doidy*, a comedy that neatly combines the national vices of football and whisky.

Most of the cans have been there for decades, and some give off a pungent smell that betrays the presence of "vinegar syndrome", a chemical reaction capable of destroying film within hours.

The cans belong to the Scottish Film and Television Archive but a lack of staff and

there is a slim chance that the extra specialists recruited may turn up one or more of the so-called "lost masterpieces" of Scottish film. At the time when Scotland is consumed with issues of national identity and history, it would be quite a coup for the archive if it was able to turn up the 1911 version of *Rob Roy*.

Janet McBain, curator of

the archive since its formation in 1976, thinks there is "just a sliver of hope" it is lying there in the dark. The archive has production stills from *Rob Roy* but the film itself has vanished. Another missing masterpiece is the first three-reel film made in Britain, *The Hairy King*, a romantic melodrama from 1919.

Glasgow really took to another lost film, *Fido Doidy*, in which a temperance observer mistakenly drinks whisky and becomes besotted with football. Made in 1921, it ran for an unheard of six weeks without a break in the city but was last seen in 1946.

Feature films will be rarities among the cans as they, with newswires, were returned to the distributors.

Instead there is likely to be a deluge of social history in film of sports days, galas, works outings, promotions for industry, educational films and fore-runners of home videos sent in by old cinemas, factories and private individuals.

Global-warming anomaly 'solved'

SCIENTISTS HAVE found a possible explanation for contradictory reports about global warming, which some experts have used to cast doubt over whether pollution is responsible.

Satellite measurements of the lower atmosphere have consistently found it has cooled over the past two decades contradicting temperature measurements on the ground, which have shown a consistent rise.

Scientists have looked again at the atmospheric temperature measurements and found

emerged that global warming is real, with pollution to blame.

Some scientists have nevertheless exploited anomalies in the global temperature readings to cast doubt on the idea that man-made emissions of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, are responsible.

However, Frank Wentz and Matthias Schabel, who work for a Californian consultancy, Remote Sensing Systems, report in the journal *Nature* that the atmospheric cooling effect of carbon dioxide, as detected by satellite between 1979 and

1995, is more likely to be a real rise of 0.07°C per decade.

This brings the changes in the temperature of the lower atmosphere more into line with the reported increase in the average temperature of the Earth's surface, which is accepted to be 0.13°C per decade.

The difficulty in reconciling the information from these different sources has sparked a debate in the climate community about possible instrumental problems and the existence of global warming. Mr Wentz and Mr Schabel write.

Liverworts first roots

Cliff Wilson

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Matt Anderson, manager of Games Workshop in Oxford Street, central London, with two War Hammer game dragons

Kalpesh Lathigra

Secret's out on boys' own game

BY KATE WATSON-SMITH

THEY ARE the modern equivalent of the toy soldiers beloved by little boys since the time of the pharaohs. But now thanks to the enthusiasm of teenagers and some rather eccentric grown-ups, an army of toy elves, orcs and goblins has become a huge industry.

War Hammer is tin soldiers for the 1990s and such is its fascination among teenage boys that Games Workshops, which invented it, has just announced an annual turnover of £65m.

It is a curious phenomenon in the age of computer games and digital video disks. Moreover, the company has never advertised War Hammer, or its futuristic version 40K. It relies on word of mouth and the spending power of 13-year-old boys.

Chris Prentice, chief executive of Games Workshops describes it as "Tolkien-esque fantasy". He added: "Boys know about us and they tell their friends and that is the best form of advertising that we can have. It is not aimed at adults and we don't care that they don't know about us."

John Stoddard, the sales director, has a more simple explanation for the popularity of the

game, which was invented in 1983. "It was about collecting model soldiers, which boys have done for years, but we expanded that and gave people a reason for collecting them because there was a game they could play with them. It is successful because people can continue to expand their collection and have the fun of painting them as well as having a battle at the end."

A War Hammer introductory kit costs £50 and gives the embryo warlord two small armies, a set of rules and some scenery. The troops are plastic, but the officers are pewter and need decorating.

The game's central concept is simple, but it can be developed to become as convoluted and muddled as the mind of any teenager. But the rule books contain comprehensive lists of alliances that can be formed and treaties that can be made as well as detailing the complicated scoring process.

"You decide who will go first by the roll of the dice, but after that it is all based on how far certain species can move in one go and how fast they travel," said Mr Prentice, who admits

Business, page 19

HOW TO PLAY WAR HAMMER

THERE ARE 11 races to choose from and young warlords are advised to choose the race that best suits their character.

The "goodies" include wood elves, high elves, Bretonnians (chivalrous knights) and dwarves, and the "badies" are the dark elves, orcs, goblins, chaos (evil demons), undead and skaven (rat men).

Build up your army, taking the time to paint each

soldier and form a strong collection. Each model is worth a set number of points. When two people are ready to have a battle they decide how many points they will field and choose their soldiers accordingly. A good-sized battle would be 3,000 points.

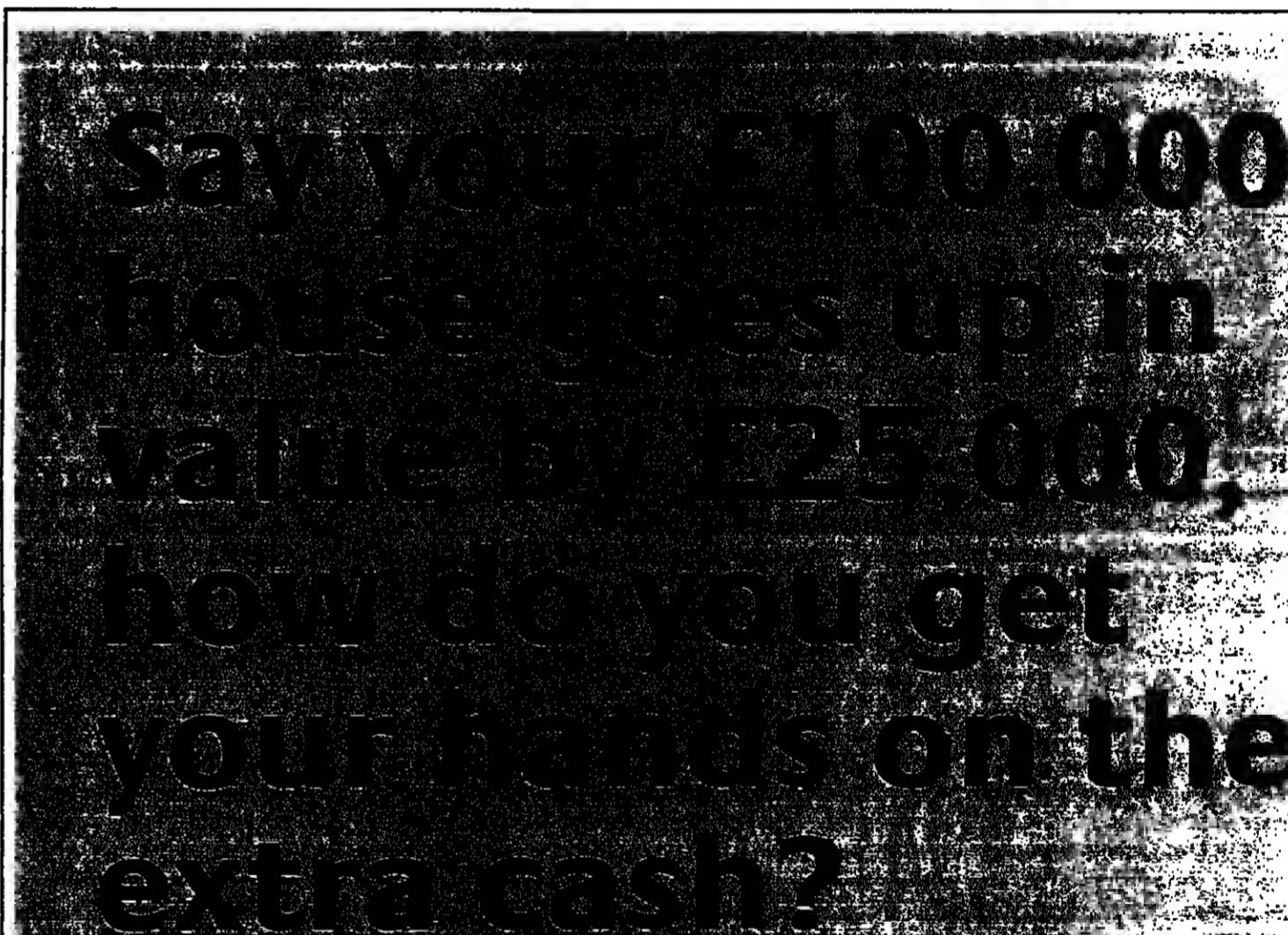
Decide before the start of the game whether it is a fight to the death, a battle to capture the high ground, or who has the most points after a

certain number of turns.

Work out the strategy. Line the two armies up in serrated ranks 2in apart. There are no rules as to how they must be ranked.

It is up to the player to decide whether to be strong in mid-field or at the edges.

The first move is decided by a roll of the dice and each soldier is allowed to move a certain distance according to his race. Similar rules apply to weapons.



DO YOU FEEL STUPID?
DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN.
CHALLENGE YOUR FINANCIALS ON THE SPOT!

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£1,000 fees will deter clearing students

TUITION FEES imposed by the Government from this autumn, may cause students to withdraw their university applications at the last moment, heads warned yesterday.

Clearing – the process in which students without university offers compete for unfilled places – begins next week after A-level results are published on Thursday.

Experts say the next few weeks will provide the final test of the effect on applications of the introduction of £1,000-a-year fees. Sixteen per cent of university places are filled through clearing.

So far, there has been no fall in the number of 18-year-olds applying, though applications from mature students have dropped sharply.

By JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

But John Dunford, incoming general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said universities which accepted students with lower A-level grades from the clearing process might find applicants withdrawing.

Such students might decide that less prestigious universities were not necessarily a passport to employment and a good salary.

He added: "Students who don't get the A-level results they need for the course they want will be more inclined to withdraw. It is one thing to decide to fill in an application form the best part of a year in advance of going to university, and altogether another to de-

STARTING NEXT WEEK Our exclusive Ucas guide to university vacancies

that some people had put in applications as a back-up and intended to take their final decision after the results.

A spokeswoman for the National Union of Students said: "Students take a risk in clearing as it is. The decision about whether to go into the clearing process becomes much more serious if they are going to have to pay £1,000."

About 20,000 university applicants usually withdraw at the clearing stage. Professor Frank Gould, vice-chancellor of the University of East London, predicted that the number would increase this year because of tuition fees. "But the numbers will not be great. And they will come back in future years once they realise that higher education is a good investment."

icide between taking a job and going to a university you haven't chosen."

Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) which runs clearing, refused to speculate on what would happen, but he accepted there was anecdotal evidence

Figures from Ucas suggest that students are becoming increasingly cost-conscious. Applications for traditional academic subjects such as the physical sciences are down and those for more vocational courses such as computer science, marketing and business are booming.

The trend is away from the caring professions – such as nursing, social work and teaching – towards professions which offer better financial rewards.

Dr Higgins said that the number of courses offered by universities created since 1992, which tended to offer more vocational courses, would exceed those offered by the old universities for the first time from autumn next year.

Summerhill School will not close

A SCHOOL where pupils choose whether to attend lessons has been told by inspectors that it is safe from closure.

A year ago, Summerhill, the 77-year-old Suffolk "free school", was told by the Government that it must change or face procedures which would shut it down. The letter followed six years of critical reports on issues such as "unconventional

BY JUDITH JUDD

al extra-curricular activities" including nude bathing.

Inspectors also criticised reading standards among younger children at the £6,500-a-year boarding school where pupils make their own rules.

At their latest visit in June, however, inspectors appeared to accept the school's right to

promote its alternative philosophy. Zoe Readhead, the head and daughter of the founder A S Neil, said yesterday:

A letter from the Department for Education to Mrs Readhead commented: "Attainment and progress ought not necessarily to be considered purely from the point of view of value-added but should also encompass the values-added

and the extent to which the school was impacting on pupils' personal, social, moral, spiritual and cultural development."

Mrs Readhead said yesterday: "Never before have we had any acknowledgement from any inspectors that we even have a philosophy, let alone that it might be valuable." She argued that Summerhill's insistence on teaching children citizenship and encouraging them to participate in democracy was in tune with the times.

A department spokesman said: "We accept that Summerhill is different and that standards have improved. We are working towards a way to assess levels of progress in a school that has a different philosophy and where lessons are not enforced."



Circus Ethiopia performers getting the right balance inside the big tent at Leith Links for their opening show at the Edinburgh Festival Jeff Mitchell/Reuters

The Link

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The Link

Patients given a say on the NHS

PATIENTS WILL be given a chance to say what they think of the NHS in the first systematic attempt to find out what they want, Frank Dobson announced yesterday.

The Secretary of State for Health said it was "quite extraordinary" that the National Health Service had been in existence for half a century, without patients "having an automatic right to a voice at the heart of the service".

The NHS was an organisation with a budget of more than £27 billion of taxpayers' money yet had never regularly asked its users what they thought of the service they were getting, he said.

An annual survey of 150,000 patients will seek their views on issues including the length of time they have to wait, the courtesy of NHS staff and the information they are given about their condition. This core survey will focus on patients'

pend on the NHS. They have the right to say how they think it should be run and what it should deliver.

"What we want is a system that is moulded to the needs of the patient. Too often in the past, we have had things the other way around, with patients having to mould themselves to the system. That is coming to an end."

The first survey, to be conducted by a non-NHS organisation, will begin in the autumn and its results published next spring. Health authorities and NHS trusts will be required to respond to the issues raised.

"Our own surveys have shown that people who have been treated and feel better are more positive than people who are waiting for treatment who tend to be more critical," a spokeswoman said.

Mr Dobson said: "The public pay for the NHS. They de-

pend on the NHS. They have the right to say how they think it should be run and what it should deliver.

"What we want is a system that is moulded to the needs of the patient. Too often in the past, we have had things the other way around, with patients having to mould themselves to the system. That is coming to an end."

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Mr Dobson added: "For the first time the NHS will have systematic evidence to enable the health service to measure itself against the aspirations and experience of the people who use it. The new NHS will listen and learn from what patients say."

TV Gladiator 'acted as gangland go-between'

By NATALIE MARTIN

A JURY played secretly recorded tapes yesterday of a senior detective allegedly agreeing to pass top-secret information to a gangland leader.

Mike Ahearne – known as TV Gladiator Warrior – was the "go-between" for Detective Chief Inspector Elmore Davies of Merseyside Police, and the father of a man accused of attempting to murder a nightclub bouncer in July 1996, the prosecution alleges.

Nottingham Crown Court was told the criminal gang of Philip Glennon senior and Curtis Warren was out to get information that could scupper the case against Philip Glennon junior. It is alleged DCI Davies

agreed to pass details for a £10,000 fee about the chief police witness in the case, PC Gary Titherington.

On the sixth day of the trial yesterday the jury listened through headphones to muffled

tapes of conversations between Davies and Ahearne, recorded by a bug in Elmore Davies's flat.

Davies was allegedly heard to stress to Ahearne, an old friend, the need for security.

"I know I am being paranoid about this but if they mention my name, we'll be on longer be of use to him because either I'll get fed disinformation deliberately or they'll move me where I cannot find anything out."

He was also allegedly heard telling Ahearne that police had an informant close to Glennon and went on to spell out Gary Titherington's name, his car registration and the nursery his daughter attended.

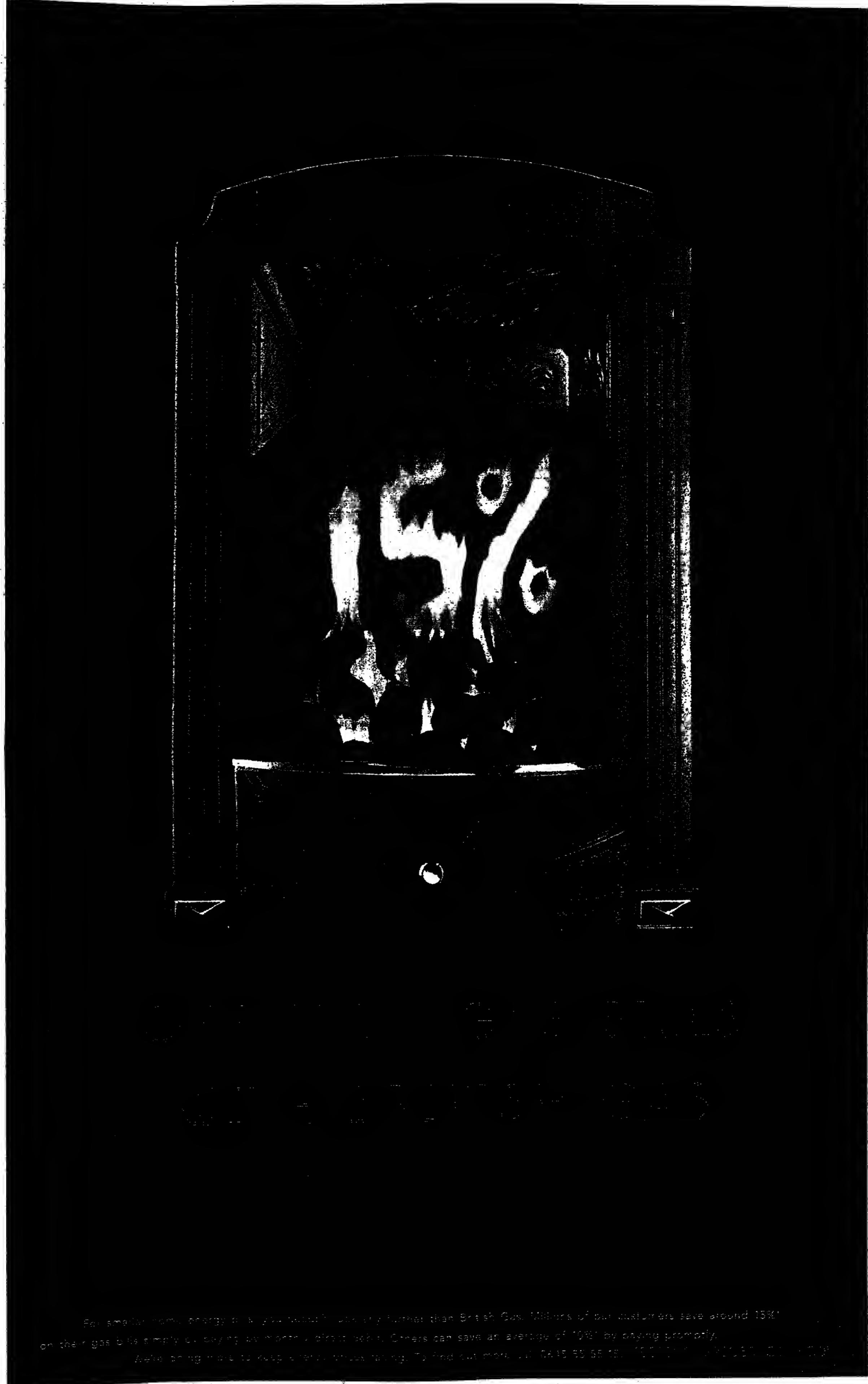
The hearing was adjourned until September 2.

Look out for our VOUCHER SPECIALS



given a
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Woodward to accuse media

BY PAUL McCANN
Media Editor

LOUISE WOODWARD is planning to take aim at the media and their coverage of her murder trial when she appears at a conference later this month.

Ms Woodward, who has made only selected public appearances and statements since returning from America, will appear at the Edinburgh International Television Festival to discuss the televising of trials and the impact of the media on criminal justice.

She will sit on a panel with her American lawyer, Barry Scheck, in a session to be chaired by Jenni Murray, the *Woman's Hour* presenter on 31 August.

The festival's organisers said Woodward, who stands convicted of the manslaughter of baby Matthew Eappen, will not be paid for her role in the debate.

"I think she has things she wants to say to the media, and that's why she decided to come," said Ruth Pitt, Granada's head of documentaries and the festival advisory chair.

She added that Woodward had not dictated the terms of her appearance, and Mr Scheck would be there in his own right to express his opinions on the issue.

"Louise is a very sharp and self-assured young woman, and



Woodward: 'Cold' at trial

trial started the British media treated her as a victim of a defective foreign judicial system.

The American media also became supportive until her manslaughter sentence was reduced to the same amount of time she had already served.

In the UK the treatment of her release by the tabloid press depended on whether a newspaper thought it had access to her or if it thought she had sold her story to a rival.

Her only major interviews have been given to the newspaper her father works for in Liverpool and to *Panorama's* Martin Bashir.

Crucial in establishing sympathy for Ms Woodward was her appearance on satellite television during every day of the trial. While American audiences considered her cold when she was giving evidence, her anguished reaction to her original conviction for murder sparked a UK-wide campaign for her release. Sky News, which had the UK rights to the televised trial, quadrupled its audience during it.

Other controversial topics being covered by the television festival include a debate on documentary soaps and honesty in film-making. A number of popular and investigative documentaries have been accused this year of exaggeration and fabricating footage to spice up their content.

Ms Woodward's portrayal by both the British and American media has rollercoasted in the past year. When she was first arrested the Boston press effectively decided she was guilty, mainly on the basis of a supposed confession. Once her

I think she made this decision for herself."

The circumstances of the case and the debate about Woodward's guilt would not form part of the session.

"In a sense, it's an irrelevance. We have gone past that and Louise isn't there to be put on trial by the media.

"The media is being put on trial by the session. We are asking ourselves how the media deal with these cases and how the British media may deal with these kind of cases if British trials are ever televised."

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Clean it up!

Images of dogs painted on pavements by East Riding Council in Yorkshire, have led to a dramatic decrease in fouling John Angerson

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Livingstone
launches into
cyberspace

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

to become London's first elected mayor.

"I have not seen Jeffrey

Archer's website, but this one is more to do with people who cannot get access to the left-wing press - they will be able to get all of Ken's articles for Tribune. They can also access

his articles for The Independent and his weekly London Evening Standard restaurant column. It's not a response to Jeffrey Archer," said Mr Fletcher.

The Livingstone website carries his manifesto for mayor and links to his local favourite restaurant, the Sabras, an Indian eatery in Willesden, north London, with details of constituency surgeries and how constituents can e-mail him.

There is a worse prospect in store for Mr Blair. Once funds allow, Livingstone is hoping to have sound on his website, so that no matter how much the leadership tries to gag him he will be able to speak out from cyberspace.

The Livingstone website address is: <http://www.pop-tel.org.uk/ken-livingstone>

VIAGRA CORNER

DESPATCHES FROM THE FRONTIERS OF MEDICINE

NEARLY HALF of family doctors in the UK will have attended a new impotence treatment course by next year because of the Viagra craze, it has been estimated.

Already 250 GPs have attended the first sessions launched in the past month by a team of specialists. By the middle of next year, 15,000 will have attended the training programme and will be able to offer the new treatment.

The aim of the Erectile Dysfunction in Primary Care (EDiPC) course is to prepare family doctors to help men with impotence as new, easier to administer treatments become available.

The frenetic publicity surrounding Viagra has been a major driving force behind the new initiative. GPs who previously referred patients with erectile problems to specialists, are suddenly having to cope with a huge demand for the new drug.

The training programme, which was developed by a team of 14 impotence experts, including GPs, and reviewed by a panel of more than 40 medical professionals,

gives doctors practical information about erectile dysfunction and its treatment.

The programme is based on a "cascade" approach whereby newly-trained GPs pass on knowledge to their colleagues.

"Prior to becoming involved in the EDiPC training programme, my normal practice was to refer sufferers of ED to the local urologist," said Dr Peter Shaw, from Maidstone, Kent.

"I now realise that, in most men, it is a relatively easy condition to diagnose and manage and can be one of the most rewarding to treat."

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suspect
bomber



Congolese refugees fleeing their homes near the western town of Boma pass through the final military checkpoint before entering Kinshasa yesterday

David Guttenfelder/AP

Kabila pays for failure to deliver

BY JAMES WALKER

NOT LONG ago they were hailed as the new Africans – battle-hardened former guerrilla commanders who agreed on regional issues and followed pragmatic economic programmes. Yet the fledgling alliance, much ballyhooed by the West in May 1997, when Laurent Kabila overthrew the cancer-ridden Zairean despot Mobutu Sese Seko, has already unravelled.

Commentators and Western diplomats who optimistically were referring to a confluence of interest in Central Africa are once again scrambling for explanations as the president of the now-renamed Democratic Republic of Congo struggles for survival.

President Kabila faces uprisings in the east of his country, as well as localised unrest and isolated incidents countrywide, because he has squandered a towering legacy of goodwill. The United Nations and the United States, powerful benefactors after Mr Kabila assumed power, have been disappointed by his failure to acknowledge human rights irregularities in Congo or to discuss allegations of civilian deaths in the refugee camps housing Rwandan Hutus in 1994-97.

They said alliance leaders were drawn from the east, west

community has been upset by a failure to end the old ways of graft and corruption.

Crucially, Mr Kabila's key foreign backers, Rwanda, Uganda and Angola, have lost patience with his failure to deliver the regional security they demanded in return for their support of his rebellion against Mobutu.

In response, Mr Kabila's government has become increasingly edgy, blaming former friends for all the current woes. The information minister, Didier Mumengi, has accused

Uganda of sending troops to aid rebels in the north-east near the town of Bunia. This followed earlier complaints that Rwandan soldiers were fighting alongside rebel Banyamulenge (ethnic Tutsis who migrated from what is now Rwanda in the last century) units in Kivu and even supporting rebel attacks near the western oil town of Muanda.

Congolese army general Enki Monga Aindu said in a recent newspaper interview that Rwanda thought of Congo as a "colony" and described Rwanda

as "a toad that wants to swallow an elephant".

Mr Kabila's language left no doubts as to the extent that relations had soured when he called Uganda's president Yoweri Museveni and Rwanda's vice-president Paul Kagame "aggressors" and claimed that his country had been invaded.

But if he was expecting some speedy international support, then the seven-nation summit at Victoria Falls

showed the impotence of countries in the region, as leaders of Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Namibia, Zambia, and Uganda met Mr Kabila.

Angola and Rwanda's absence was instructive, particularly as the summit vowed to investigate Rwanda's role in the uprising. The impression given was of a region divided, with those not already directly involved certainly reluctant and possibly unable to intervene successfully in such a complex dispute.

Private meetings between South African and Congolese officials may mean real help for Mr Kabila could possibly arrive

from that quarter, but it remains too early to judge Pretoria's intentions.

The Congolese army's counter-offensive since Saturday could result in the government regaining control in the pockets outside the rebellion's home base in eastern Congo.

Mr Kabila's army, however,

probably cannot remove the Banyamulenge and Rwandan forces from the vital border towns of Goma, Bukavu and Uvira.

We do not know this and

hopes that his invasion rhetoric will mobilise international opinion and force Rwanda to pull out.

If Mr Kabila survives the next few weeks, the rebels' appetite for a national campaign may flag. Despite recent statements by Sylvain Bokelenge, the commander of the rebel 10th army battalion, that "Congo needs new leadership", and rebel leader Jean-Pierre Ondekane that "we cannot negotiate with a dictator", the terrain, physical distance and lack of transport links may force the two sides to agree to an uneasy truce.

James Walker is Africa editor at The Economist Intelligence Unit in London.

Rebels join forces in push for power

REBELS FIGHTING President Laurent Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo announced a broad-based opposition coalition yesterday to spearhead an effort to drive him from power.

Speaking from Goma in eastern Congo where they met yesterday, rebel leaders said they were putting final touches to their alliance, which would be known as the Congolese Movement for Democracy.

They said alliance leaders were drawn from the east, west

and south of the country, including Mr Kabila's home region of Katanga, near the border with Zambia.

Jean-Pierre Ondekane, the rebel commander whose troops from the Rwandan army helped

Mr Kabila depose the former dictator, Mobutu Sese Seko, in May last year, said the rebels had cut an oil pipeline in western Congo that supplies Kinshasa. He also said troops had reached the outskirts of the Congo River port of Matadi, 173 miles south-west of the capital.

Officials in Kinshasa, meanwhile, said that government troops had retaken the city of Bukavu, south of Goma, and its airport, while other loyalists were fighting for the western town of Boma. Mr Ondekane denied that Bukavu had been retaken by government forces.

He said that rebel aircraft were supporting forces on the ground at Kitona airbase just outside the seaside town of Muanda and in Kisangani, 520 miles north-east of Kinshasa, on the Congo River.



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JPV101000

Boy killers may force change in law



Comfort for Mitch Wright, husband of the murdered teacher, Shannon Jeff Mitchell

WITH EMOTIONS running high at the powerlessness of the Arkansas courts to issue stiff sentences against two boys who opened fire on their own schoolyard, killing a teacher and four of their schoolmates, state legislators said yesterday they would consider changes in the law in their next session to provide "adult" punishments for serious juvenile offenders.

A county judge in Jonesboro found 14-year-old Mitchell Johnson and 12-year-old Andrew Golden guilty or "delinquent" in the terminology of the juvenile courts - on Tuesday for the killings at Westside Middle School in March but found himself legally unable to do more than turn them over to the care of the state.

The state, in turn, only has the power to keep them in detention until they reach adulthood, raising the possibility that the older boy could be free in as little as four years.

"The present system is designed for offenders who throw rocks through windows, not those who shoot guns at people," complained Bon Baker,

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Jonesboro

a church minister active among relatives of the victims of the Jonesboro shootings.

Arkansas legislators are now drafting bills examining the possibility of trying minors as adults, or else "blending" sentences, so offenders could be transferred from a juvenile institution to a state prison once they reach 21.

There may be constitutional problems with such legislation, and anyway it could only be applied to future cases.

The best Arkansas can do, in this case, is to build a new facility to hold the two boys between the ages of 18 and 21; none exists at present.

Last week, the state governor Mike Huckabee promised to do just that in an effort to quell public anger, grief and frustration.

The high emotion in Jonesboro is not unlike the reaction to the sentences in the James Bulger murder case in Britain, in 1993.

In America, however, the

problem is much larger, simply because violent crimes committed by minors are alarmingly common.

Between October 1997 and May of this year, 11 children and one adult - the Jonesboro teacher - died in school shootings as far afield as Kentucky and Oregon. In Chicago this week, two boys aged seven and eight were accused of throwing a rock at an 11-year-old girl's head, sexually molesting her and then choking her to death on her own underpants.

Most of these cases fall into a legal area of deep uncertainty, if not an outright vacuum. In the Chicago case, the two boys are too young to be held in custody, too young to be sent to a detention centre if found guilty, and very possibly too young to stand trial or even be charged with murder.

The only legal redress is in their case are psychological counselling or assignment to a foster home, possibly coupled with some kind of probation enabling a juvenile court to review their case in two or three years time.

What public opinion and the judicial system are clamouring for is not so much harsh sentencing - although there are plenty of rabble-rousing calls for that, particularly in the eye-for-an-eye, Bible-belt world of northeastern Arkansas - as some kind of clarity and moral guidance over highly troubling terrain.

Is poor parenting responsible for these horrors? Or the availability of weapons? Or the pernicious influence of television and video games? Some clarity can be gleaned from official crime statistics, which show that juvenile murder is far from a recent, or an isolated phenomenon.

Between 1991 and 1996, 15 American children under the age of nine and more than 900 aged 9-14 were accused of committing murder, either with or without guns or rocks.

In the Chicago area alone, under-10s have killed every two or three years since 1965. A key problem in addressing the issue is rehabilitation. Juvenile detention centres are far from ideal environments to re-

establish wayward moral values, and facilities including the Alexander Services Centre near Little Rock - where Johnson and Golden will be kept - have suffered allegations of mistreatment of inmates by staff.

Johnson's father vowed on Tuesday to get his son "the hell out of Arkansas" because of the risk of mistreatment, including sodomy. He claimed Mitchell had received 175 death threats, including specific allusions to how he can expect to be treated at Alexander.

A series of newspaper articles about abuse at juvenile centres ran in the Arkansas press last summer, leading to a flurry of firings across the state and the closure of the youth "diagnostic centre" at the old North Little Rock City Jail. Alexander was not the main focus of the allegations, but as Larry Fewgate, an editor at the Jonesboro Sun put it: "You can bet your life somebody's been sodomised there at some point in time. Ain't no facility in the state where it hasn't happened."

Kohl scrabbles for votes on immigration and workfare

CONFIRMING HIS belief that this year's election will be won or lost on unemployment and immigration, Chancellor Helmut Kohl yesterday unveiled a programme that promises to curb both.

The jobless, according to the last tranche of the Christian Democrats' manifesto, can expect their wages topped up by the state if they accept low-paid work. Foreigners, it advises, should stay away from Germany, and those already here had better start behaving themselves.

"Germany is not a country of immigration," declared Theo Waigel, chairman of the Bavarian party.



Kohl: outwardly assured

ian sister party, who attended the presentation in Bonn. That phrase was left out of the two parties' joint programme, but the new harder line is nevertheless clearly discernible. "Immigration must be restricted as tightly as possible," it states. "Anyone who calls for immigration to our densely populated country endangers its inner peace."

Foreigners living in Germany, estimated at 7 million, must adjust their lifestyles to the social and legal order of Germany. To encourage integration, the nationality procedure is to be eased, but there will be no fundamental change in the nationality law, which requires new citizens to burn their previous passports.

The number of unemployed, Mr Kohl told journalists, was heading down, and would fall below 4 million in the coming

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

months. To encourage the trend, the government would implement the tax reforms it developed two years ago but failed to get through the upper house dominated by the Social Democrats.

The labour market's problem, the government recognises, is that German workers have become too expensive, largely because of levies and taxes imposed by the state. To get around this, Mr Kohl is proposing the "combi-wage", a concept remarkably similar to the Anglo-Saxon "workfare".

The idea has provoked a great deal of controversy in Germany, not so much by its radicalism, but because the protagonists dispute who came up with it first. Gerhard Schröder, the Social Democrat chancellor candidate who has plundered the election programmes of Tony Blair and Bill Clinton, insists on the German copyright.

The row over the authorship of this scheme has highlighted the dilemma facing German voters: the two rival camps are so busy stealing each other's clothes that no one can tell any more who stands for what.

As the policy gap narrows between Chancellor Kohl and Mr Schröder, voter confusion appears to deepen. Opinion polls show rising optimism over the economy, contributing to a decline in Mr Schröder's personal popularity, yet the challenger still outranks the incumbent in his perceived economic competence.

In the figures that matter, Mr Schröder is still ahead, perhaps even by 10 points, according to a poll published yesterday. Or he may be only three points in front, as reported in another poll last week, in which case the coming weeks will be exciting.

Mr Kohl, for his part, is certain of victory. Well, almost. Yesterday he announced for the first time that, if he loses, he will bow out not only as Chancellor but also as chairman of his party.

NZ government close to collapse

NEW ZEALAND'S coalition government was on the verge of collapse last night after the Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters, and four other ministers of his party walked out of a Cabinet meeting.

The Prime Minister, Jenny Shipley, said she would try to revive the two-party, centre-right coalition through a formal disputes mechanism.

Meanwhile, her conservative National Party would run a minority government. She ruled out an early election.

Mr Peters, leader of the nationalist New Zealand First party, refused to concede that the coalition was dead. The

BY DAVID BARBER
in Wellington

coalition partners have been fighting behind the scenes since Mrs Shipley ousted the former prime minister, Jim Bolger, who used to settle differences with Mr Peters over a late-night bottle of Scotch, last December.

The issue that provoked the showdown was the proposed sale of the government's 66 per cent share in Wellington International Airport to a British-New Zealand consortium. National Party MPs supported the sale, but NZ First demanded a guarantee of majority New Zealand ownership.

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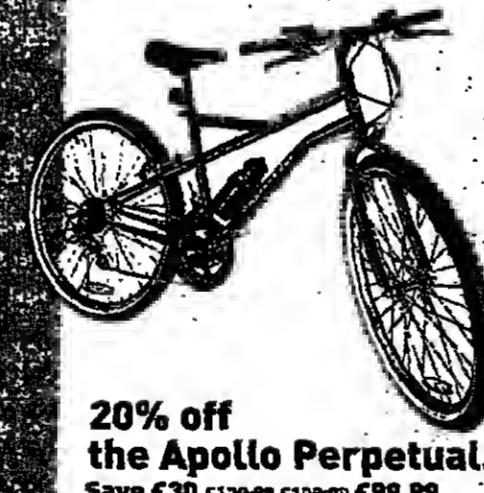
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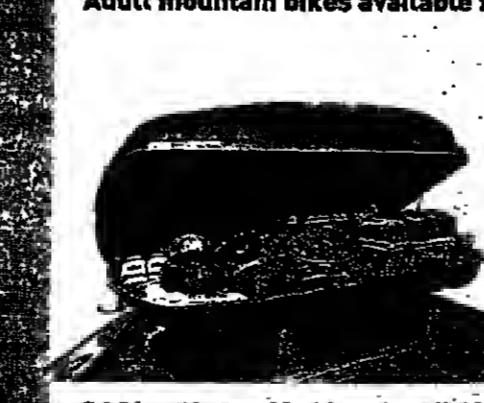
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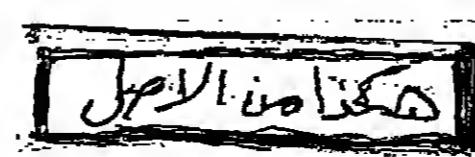
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Hands of friendship bridge race divide

FRONTLINE BOLLON, QUEENSLAND

BOLLON IS pretty much a one-horse town, and one that has seen better days. But it is also the front line in Australia's bitter land-title war between Aborigines and white farmers. And here, miles from anywhere in the Queensland outback, a path to peace has been forged by two women whose backgrounds could not be more different.

Camilla Cowley is a farmer approaching the age of 50 who grew up in privileged surroundings. She went to boarding school, trained as a teacher and now runs sheep with her husband, Kerry, on North Yanco, their 2,000-acre property south of Bollon.

Ethel Munn is an Aboriginal woman approaching 70 who was born near Bollon, under a tin "humpy", or shelter, and who lived on river banks well into her adult life. The two women might never have met had it not been for a landmark ruling by Australia's High

Court almost two years ago. The ruling established for the first time that native title rights over traditional Aboriginal lands could co-exist with farming activities on the "pastoral leasehold" land that covers much of outback Australia.

Such leases were created in the last century to bring order to frontier Australia when white settlers forged into the outback and staked claims to holdings the size of small countries. As the leases passed from generation to genera-



Outback farmer Camilla Cowley (left) in Canberra last year hugging Gladys Tybingoompa, who, like Mrs Cowley's friend Ethel Munn, belongs to an Aboriginal people seeking access to ancestral land; the 'Sea of Hands' names those who signed a parliamentary petition calling for the continuation of native title Andrew Meares

illa Cowley that made her want to know more about the Gun-garri and their history. So, after the meeting, she walked across the street to the local Aboriginal land office. Ethel Munn followed her in. The two women gingerly struck up a conversation that has led, two years later, to a close friendship and an agreement that is being hailed nationally as a model of how white and black rural Australians can meet each other over native title without rancour.

"Ethel told me they wanted just recognition and acknowledgement, and the right to come back to their country to visit," says Mrs Cowley. "They didn't want to take anything from us. When I realised what native title was really about, I could only applaud. I feel ashamed now over how ignorant I was about my own country's situation."

Mrs Cowley told her story in Bollon's sole cafe, where she drove to meet me in her four-wheel drive vehicle over a dirt road turned to quagmire by flood rains. To meet the Munn's, I drove another 145 miles north, dodging herds of kangaroos that the rains had brought out from the bush.

Ethel and Gordon, who says he "will not see 70 again", now own a 1,000-acre cattle farm near the town of Roma. For

Mrs Munn, the native title dispute (she calls it a "débâcle") has been as much a journey of discovery as it has for Mrs Cowley. While Mrs Cowley has helped to organise meetings between farmers and Aborigines to get them talking, Mrs Munn has set up talkfests specifically between black and white women.

"It's the men who've been standing up and shouting misinformation," says Mrs Munn.

"The women aren't stupid. We've got a better chance of getting it right."

There is still hostility among many farmers, and some of Camilla Cowley's old friends and neighbours have shunned her for the stand she has taken. One woman at the local church turned her back on Mrs Cowley; others have attacked her in the Catholic newspaper.

Nevertheless, later this year, the Cowleys plan to have

a formal ceremony with the Gun-garri at North Yanco, where they will acknowledge the sharing of the land for their different purposes.

Ethel Munn says: "For us it means access, so that future generations can say 'That's my mother's and grandmother's country, and those people at North Yanco are prepared to let us go there.'

ROBERT MILLIKEN

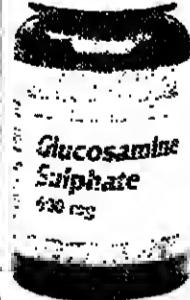
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Iranians protest to Pakistan over detentions by Taliban

ABOUT 150 people protested outside Pakistan's embassy in Tehran yesterday to demand freedom for 11 Iranian diplomats and a journalist who are alleged to be held by the Afghan Taliban militia. Witnesses said the crowd shouted "Taliban - Criminals!" and "Pakistani army supports the Taliban!"

One man forced his way into the embassy hut was roughed up and expelled by Pakistani security forces, the witnesses said.

Iran says that Pakistan, which it accuses of manipulat-

ing the Taliban, is responsible for the safety of the 11 diplomats and the journalist for Iran's official news agency, IRNA, missing since the Islamic movement seized the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif last weekend.

A statement from the Talib-

an government, which con-

tinues virtually all major Afghan centres, denied that it was holding any diplomats but said it had arrested 35 Iranian truck drivers delivering ammunition to opposition forces.

Witnesses said the window of

Taliban, but dismissed suggestions that it was responsible for the fate of the missing Iranians.

Relations between the Sunni Muslim Taliban and mainly Shi'ite Muslim Iran have been tense since the movement first emerged in force in 1994. Iran recognises the administration of the ousted president, Burhanuddin Rabbani, which also holds the Afghan seat at the United Nations. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates recognise the Taliban government.

IN BRIEF

King Fahd has gallstone surgery

KING FAHD of Saudi Arabia has had his gall bladder and gallstones removed in Riyadh by an American surgeon assisted by a team of Saudi doctors. King Fahd, who is in his mid-seventies, was admitted to hospital on 2 August, for treatment of an internal infection.

French PM hit by anti-gay protest

THE FRENCH Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, has been bombarded with 60,000 postcards protesting against a plan to legalise "civil solidarity pacts" which critics say are a smokescreen for gay marriages. Parliament is due to debate the plan in October.

Chinese plan for Leaning Tower

A CHINESE engineer who claims he can straighten Pisa's Leaning Tower will meet Italian authorities next week. "I'm sure I can straighten the tower in 10 months," said Cao Shihzhong, who has straightened 80 leaning structures throughout China.

Greek suspect admits to arson

A SUSPECTED arsonist has confessed to setting fires in southern Greece. Giorgos Anastasopoulos, 30, told police that he started six fires in the prefecture of Ilia after being encouraged by his uncle, who wanted to damage the reputation of the fire department.

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Laura Ashley reorganises

LAURA ASHLEY is sacking its chief executive and finance director and up to 200 staff at its Fulham head office in a fresh reorganisation announced after the stock market closed last night. Chief executive David Hoare who joined the group in September last year is leaving with effect from tomorrow.

He will be replaced by Victoria Egan, who was brought in as deputy chief executive in April, at the same time as Malaysian United Industries Berhad injected £43m of fresh capital into the business by subscribing for 159 million new shares at 25p a share, giving them a 40 per cent stake in the group. Finance director Richard Pennycock will go later in the year, and will be replaced by two heads of finance reporting to the new chief executive. David Hoare is expected to leave with a full year's salary of £200,000, Richard Pennycock will take away several months of his salary which is £160,000 a year.

The changes will save the loss-making business around £3m a year but will create a charge of £2.5m against the results for the first half of the current year to 30 September. The shares shed 0.5p to 21p yesterday.

New chairman at Chiroscience

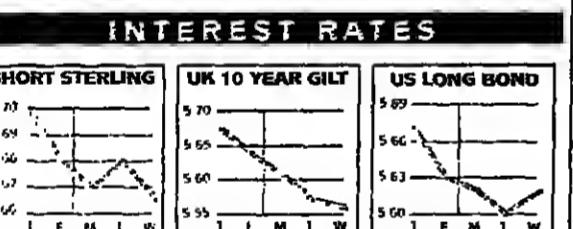
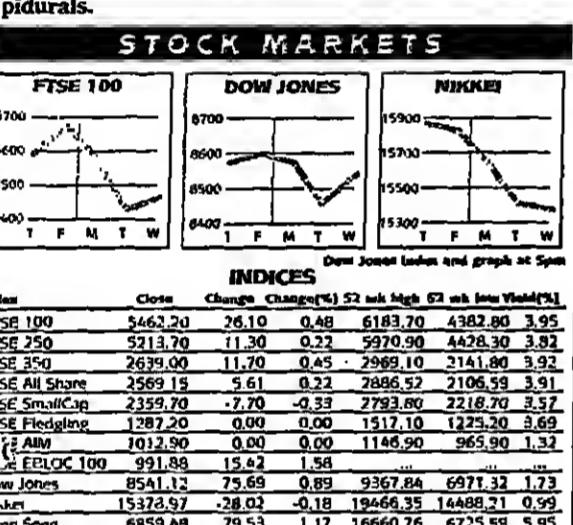
CHIROSCIENCE, the UK's second-biggest biotechnology company, has named SmithKline Beecham executive Hugh Collum (left) as its next chairman, a move that analysis say could raise the company's profile.

Mr Collum, 58, who is currently SmithKline's finance director, will replace Lord Henry Culver, who said earlier this year he would leave his post. His appointment takes effect from 1 October.

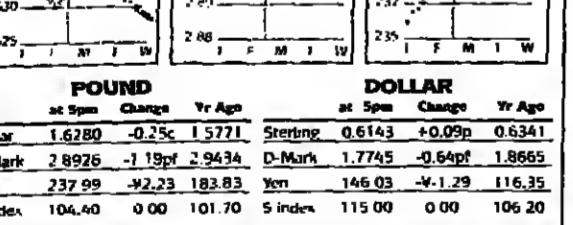
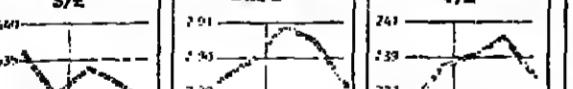
Before joining SmithKline Beecham in 1987, Mr Collum was finance director of Cadbury Schweppes, the maker of Dr Pepper and Seven Up and now the world's third-largest soft-drinks maker.

Like most biotechnology companies, Chiroscience is still reporting losses while it develops what it hopes will be profitable drugs, and analysts said Mr Collum's nomination could help raise the company's profile.

It expects this year to start selling its first major drug, Chirocaine, an anaesthetic used in surgical epidurals.



Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 Year	Yr chg	Long Bond	Yr chg
UK	7.71	-0.52	7.66	-0.16	5.56	-1.49	5.29	-1.66
US	5.69	-0.06	5.75	-0.35	5.41	-0.99	5.62	-1.05
Japan	0.65	0.06	0.66	-0.05	1.47	-1.90	2.01	-0.65
Germany	3.50	0.26	3.75	0.19	4.48	-1.18	5.14	-1.27



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Malaysia (ringgit)

Malta (lira)

Rates for information purposes only.

Source: Thomas Cook

Derek Pain, page 19

'Difficult stage' ahead for inflation, Bank warns

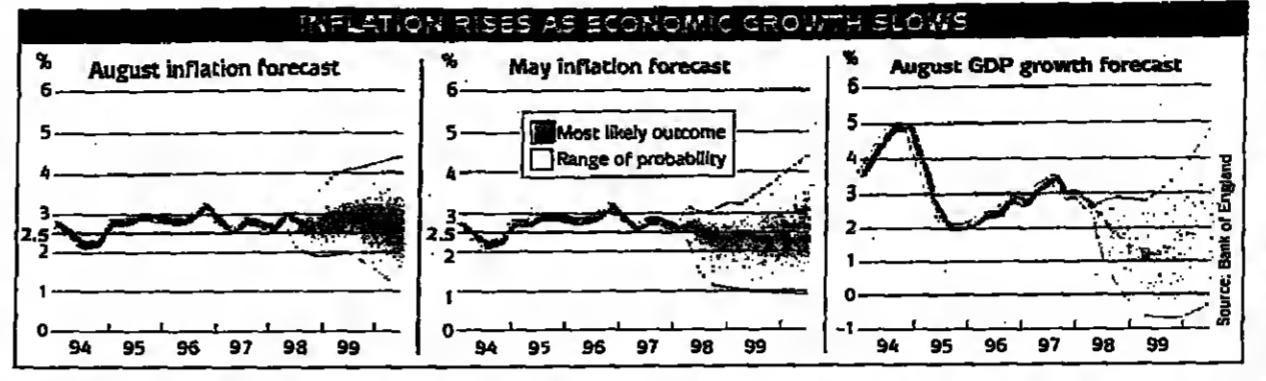
By LEA PATERSON

THE BANK'S Deputy Governor warned yesterday that the UK economy would soon hit a "difficult stage" as the Bank raised its forecast for inflation, but cut its projection for economic growth.

Mervyn King said: "We are now moving into a difficult stage of the economic cycle - more difficult than at any point since the inflation target was introduced."

The Bank's central projection in its latest inflation report has the underlying rate of inflation falling to 2.5 per cent target in the coming months, but rising to almost 3 per cent next year, before falling back to target towards the end of the two-year forecasting period. In the last inflation report in May, the central projection was that RPIX - the underlying rate of inflation - would fall back to target by the end of 1998.

"The MPC believes that



although there may be a temporary rise in inflation over the next year, looking ahead to the forecast horizon [2 years from now] the target will be met," said Mr King.

He added that there was a one-in-three chance that inflation would hit 2.5 per cent, the level at which the MPC must write to the Chancellor explaining what went wrong.

The Bank downgraded its forecast for economic growth, and Mr King warned that there

was a one-in-eight chance that GDP growth would turn negative in 1998.

Both the inflation forecast and the output forecast assume interest rates remain on hold over the forecasting period. Mr King refused to confirm that UK interest rates had in fact peaked, and City economists warned that unpleasant surprises on the earnings front or in the exchange rate could see the Bank raise rates again.

"It would be dishonest of me to give an assurance that interest rates will only go down," said Mr King. "When and where interest rates move from now will depend on how far and how long inflation is likely to remain above target."

The August inflation report received a mixed response in the City. Some said the tone was suggestive of an easing of policy; others that the report was more hawkish than expected; while a third con-

tinued to admit it made a mistake by delaying rate hikes.

Geoffrey Dicks at Greenwich NatWest said: "The forecast that inflation rises over the next year to a peak of 2.8 per cent is an admission of failure."

He added that the minutes of July's MPC meeting - also released yesterday - recognised that early inflation forecasts "were optimistic".

The July minutes - which

showed that the committee

had voted unanimously to keep rates on hold - surprised the City which had been expecting a more finely balanced vote.

However, City commenta-

tors were quick to assert that the minutes did not mean the MPC was now united in its view of the UK economy.

Rather, these suggest that the MPC decided to adopt a "wait and see" approach in the hope that another month of data would clarify economic trends.

August's rate meeting was

likely to be a far closer call.

The Bank said there were a number of reasons why it decided to up its inflation forecast, including the impact of the national minimum wage, which is likely to have a "small temporary effect on inflation."

The other factors were the higher-than-expected earnings figures, weakening private sector investment growth, and higher government spending, although the inflationary impact of the new spending plans was said to be small.

Fall in pay growth keeps lid on rates



Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said the earnings figures showed more people were getting jobs

BY LEA PATERSON

the stock market, closing up 29.4 points at 5462.2 after yesterday's 155-point fall.

Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, welcomed the figures which he described as "good news on the economy, showing more jobs, falling unemployment and a welcome reduction in earnings growth."

Headline earnings growth fell to 5 per cent in May from 5.4 per cent in April, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The pick-up in the earnings growth earlier this year was one of the main reasons why the Bank of England's

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) hiked rates in June.

Mervyn King, Deputy Governor of the Bank and one of the more hawkish MPC members, welcomed the drop in the rate of earnings growth. However,

he pointed out some "distinct oddities" in the figures that needed further analysis, such as the sharp fall in private sector earnings growth.

The claimant count - one measure of unemployment - fell sharply by 26,000 in July, taking the unemployment total to 1.335m. The ONS also revised downward its estimate of the June claimant count, saying this fell by 5,800. Previously, the ONS said it rose by 700.

Some economists interpreted the fall in the jobless numbers as a cause for concern, saying that unemployment needed to rise to keep the lid on earnings growth.

trading at below net asset value of 215p a share for the past few weeks after enjoying a higher than expected flotation price of 236.5p. Property analysts noted that when share prices dip below the underlying asset value of the company, they are considered as good value by investors.

Mr Ritblat said: "We like the investment... and we like the price." Asked whether his company would buy more shares in Selfridges, he said: "That would depend on the price." He said the stake had been built relatively recently.

Selfridges large shareholders are mainly institutions, which held stakes in Sears and bought into the company at the time of the demergers.

Ritblat builds up 3% stake in Selfridges

SHOULD OF Selfridges, the luxury London department store, soured yesterday on news that the property giant British Land had built up a stake in the company, fuelling takeover speculation.

Selfridges, which was spun off from parent company Sears last month, closed up 8.31 per cent to 221.5p, following the announcement that British Land, headed by chairman James Fleming in London said it was possible Amoco shareholders would hold out for a higher price from BP.

The deal will have to be vetted by both the European Commission and the US Federal Trade Commission or Justice Department but analysts fore-

saw few regulatory hurdles.

City analysts said that news of Ritblat's interest had triggered speculation that he could be interested in taking over Selfridges flagship Oxford Street store where the company owns the freehold. They speculated

that British Land could be keen to capitalise on the property value of the store, leaving the retail side to the existing management.

"I think British Land would be interested in the property angle and in particular in maximising the value of the Oxford Street store," said one analyst who declined to be named.

However, sources close to British Land denied that the company, which owns a large retail property portfolio, was looking at a takeover bid. They added that British Land was interested in Selfridges as an investment and had probably been attracted by the cheap rating of the stock.

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trading at below net asset value of 215p a share for the past few weeks after enjoying a higher than expected flotation price of 236.5p. Property analysts noted that when share prices dip below the underlying asset value of the company, they are considered as good value by investors.

Airtours to limit holiday deals



AIRTOURS. Britain's second biggest charter operator, will cut the number of cheap holiday deals next summer in spite of increased profits and a surge in bookings.

The £1.8bn company has benefited from Britain's rain-soaked summer, which has led to an 8 per cent rise in holiday bookings and a 16 per cent jump in bookings for this winter and next year.

But the group is under pressure. Pre-tax profits of £24.6m are only fractionally higher than the £24m recorded last year.

Airtours will not follow the travel trade tradition of flooding

BY RANDEEP RAMESH
Transport Correspondent

the market with holidays only to have to sell them dirt cheap at the last minute. Instead Airtours is cutting the number of charter packages on offer next year.

"After growth in the charter market of 10 per cent and 8 per cent over the last two years, it is important that the industry resists the temptation to increase supply for a third consecutive year to a level below that of the current season in order to maximise profitability," said chairman David Crossland.

Airtours is a major operator in Scandinavia following its acquisition of the Scandinavian Leisure Group in 1994 and the area now accounts for nearly 40 per cent of the company's revenue.

Britain remains Airtours'

key market. The group derived £408m of its third-quarter total sales of £735m from this area.

Analysts say the British holiday market is undergoing a "mini-boom" at present. Last month, Airtours sent a letter to its agents asking them to maximise their "mutual earning potential".

It will see an average £20 increase on the cost of a seven-night holiday.

"Airtours have been a poor performer for some time – simply because there was too much supply and not enough demand."

"That is now changing," said one analyst.

US fire to slice Shire sales by £60m

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

SHIRE Pharmaceuticals, the troubled drug company, said yesterday that a recent fire in one of its suppliers' factories could cause a sharp increase in its pre-tax loss and wipe up to £60m off its sales.

The company said that there had been an explosion earlier this week at a US plant which manufactures ingredients for two of its drugs used to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). This had halted production of the compounds.

Shire said that it was in discussion with the US regulatory authorities to produce the drugs at another plant, but warned that the negotiations could hold up production for up to a year.

Stephen Stamp, the finance director, said that a 12-month delay would wipe out more than \$100m (£60m) in sales and lead to a loss of around £20-25m.

Last year, Shire posted a pre-tax loss of £146,000.

The finance director said the company would be able to meet the shortfall from its cash resources, currently standing at £30m, but added that the Shire's research and development budget would probably have to be cut back to pare the losses.

Mr Stamp said that the setback could also deprive up to 200,000 American children of Adderall and DextriStat, the two ADHD drugs, for up to eight months as existing stocks were only set to last for four months.

His comments came as the drug group reported a £5.1m pre-tax profit for the first half, compared with a £41,000 loss last year.

The cost of implementing the merger of Commercial Union and General Accident has edged up from £300m to £320m, mainly because a further 1,000 job losses have been identified outside the UK, the company said yesterday.

But prospective savings from the merger have soared from £225m to £275m a year, said the group chief executive, Bob Scott.

Sky rattles digital rivals with cheap offers

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

ed at viewers' particular interests for £3.99 a month.

The move is a further attempt to undermine ONdigital, the joint venture between Carlton and Granada, which is hoping to launch a 15-channel digital service later this year.

Shares in Carlton dropped 23.5p to 468p yesterday as in-

vestors became nervous about prospects for ONdigital. BSkyB shares rose 10.5p to 423p, despite the company reporting its first pre-tax profits fall since it moved into the black in 1995.

BSkyB profits dropped 14 per cent to £270.9m as programming costs soared and subscriber growth slowed. The number of people signing up to Sky's analogue satellite service

grew by just 16,000, or 4 per cent. The company's cable subscriber base grew by 20 per cent, but revenues slipped as cable operators lured customers with cut-price packages.

The rise in programming costs, up 21 per cent to £287m, was almost entirely due to the introduction of Sky's new Premiership football contract. In the year, the company paid an extra

£92m to the Premier League.

Mark Booth, the BSkyB chief executive, yesterday dismissed his rivals. "ONdigital's current channel line-up is less attractive than our existing analogue line-up," he said. The cable companies planning digital services next year were "not committed to digital", he said.

ONdigital is planning to attract viewers by offering its

channels for less than £10 a month while pointing out that subscribers to BSkyB do not need a satellite dish.

However, analysts said its offering was looking less and less attractive. "Sky is trying to be all things to all men, and ONdigital has nowhere to go," one observer said.

Sky also announced a management restructuring that

separates its satellite platform from its programme production division. One division, known as Sky Entertainment and run by Ian West, will take charge of selling satellite dishes.

Mr Murdoch's daughter Elisabeth becomes managing director of Sky's programming arm, Sky Networks. A Sky Sports division will be run by Vic Wakeling.



Tough conditions hit CGU's results, but a strong second-half improvement is likely, said chief executive Bob Scott

Ashley Ashwood/FT

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

THE INSURANCE giant CGU continues to face tough competition around the world, made worse by an increase in adverse weather claims in the UK and North America.

Other favourable factors include: premium increases are starting to stick; UK motorists will be paying an average 10 per cent more by year-end; the life assurance business is booming; and a unified marketing group will be launched on 1 October.

The net effect of the strong pound on overseas profits cost a further £18m, and another

£26m was charged to the continuing costs of coping with the year 2000 computer bug and the euro. Total costs of these last two items have now reached £87m, about a third of the probable total expenditure.

Premium income from general insurance edged up 5 per cent to £4.6bn, while life premium income including sales of investment products rose 16

per cent to £3.4bn and is set to continue growing substantially faster than general insurance.

New life assurance and savings sales rose 28 per cent and operating profits from life assurance were up 15 per cent to £226m. However, general insurance profits plunged 60 per cent to £150m, while the costs of the merger swallowed £70m. UK underwriting losses grew from £56m to £155m and UK profits fell from £153m to £37m.

The full cost of the year 2000 bug will reach £100m and the costs of adjusting to EMU will reach £110m.

The results were in line with expectations, but the shares shed 15p to 1,030p.

SHARES IN DatronTech sunk to an all-time low yesterday before recovering slightly after the distributor of computer hardware issued a profit warning and announced the resignation of its finance director.

In a surprise statement to the Stock Exchange, the company warned that overproduction by US component manufacturers and increased competition in the UK market would slash profits for 1998.

Sources close to the company said Gerry Connolly, the finance director, will receive a payout of around £100,000.

DatronTech, a Basingstoke-based distributor of hardware components, said that sales in the past three months "had experienced a sharp decline ... compared to the first four months of the year".

The statement said that the fall in sales would lead to an interim profit figure of £2.6m, well below City analysts' expectations of £3.5m. It indicated that profits for the year would come in at £55m, down from last year's £81m and

sharp lower than the market's expectations of a figure of around £8m.

The warning triggered a number of profit downgrades and sent the shares into free-fall. They slipped 29 per cent to an all-time low of 53p before recovering to close at 63p.

Mark Mulford, the chief executive, said the company had been hit by a bout of over-supply caused by a rise in production by US chip manufacturers such as Intel. Producers had been overoptimistic in assessing the demand for computers.

The problem had been compounded by a slowdown in demand, triggered by the economic crisis in Asia. The year 2000 computer problem had also dampened demand as firms concentrated on software updates rather than hardware.

Mr Mulford maintained that tough market conditions had sparked a price war among distributors and this had hit price and margins.

COMPANY RESULTS				
Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend
Airtours (D)	725m (574.4m)	24.6m (24.1m)	4.19p (4.29p)	-
Airtours (G)	1.772b (1.202b)	1.4m (1.3m)	0.105p (0.105p)	-
BBC (P)**	1.987b (2.026b)	48m (55m)	0.02 (0.02)	4.00p
BSP (F)	1.434b (1.249b)	271m (214m)	10.25p (12.09p)	6.0p (6.0p)
CGU (P)***	(-)	290m (553m)	13.3p (27.29p)	13.25p (11.27p)
Same Workshop (P)	64.846m (58.371m)	1.58m (5.385m)	0.73p (2.99p)	0.0p (0.0p)
Westhouse Prop. (P)	(-)	1.58m (5.385m)	0.73p (1.59p)	0.20p (0.18p)
Morgan Stanley (P)	195.855m (161.887m)	5.05m (3.28m)	11.55p (7.12p)	2.05p (1.07p)
Prudential (P)	47.456m (41.547m)	-0.847m (2.046m)	-0.6p (2.1p)	-
Prudential (G) (P)	24.465m (21.455m)	12.47m (12.47m)	4.7p (4.7p)	1.5p (1.5p)
VIC (P)****	88.727m (77.548m)	1.78m (1.67m)	11.63p (10.75p)	5.5p (5.2p)
Westminster Health (P) + 134.575m (101.936m)	16.1m (16.1m)	17.4p (20.4p)	7.0p (6.0p)	

(P) - Pre-tax profit before exceptional; (G) - Gross margin; (F) - Free cash flow; (D) - Dividend per share paid as a FDI

ongoing operations; (P) - Pre-tax and EPS figures before exceptional

CGU profits slump, but outlook is better

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

THE INSURANCE giant CGU continues to face tough competition around the world, made worse by an increase in adverse weather claims in the UK and North America.

Other favourable factors include: premium increases are starting to stick; UK motorists will be paying an average 10 per cent more by year-end; the life assurance business is booming; and a unified marketing group will be launched on 1 October.

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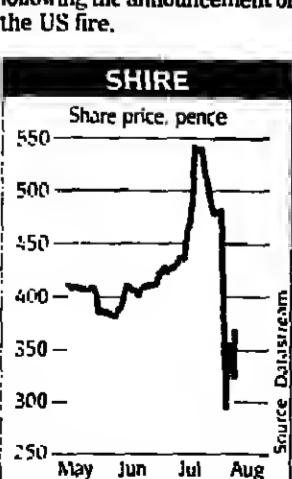
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The problem had been compounded by a slowdown in demand, triggered by the economic crisis in Asia. The year 2000 computer problem had also dampened demand as firms concentrated on software updates rather than hardware.

Mr Mulford maintained that tough market conditions had sparked a price war among distributors and this had hit price and margins.



Court backs SFA on Branston liquidation

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

THE HIGH COURT yesterday rejected an attempt by the management of Branston & Gothard, a private client stockbroker closed by regulators in April, to add their own representative to the team of liquidators winding up the broker.

Branston & Gothard, founded in 1902, was closed this year by

Suu Kyi
locked
in road
to MPs'
meeting

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday 13 August 1998

BUSINESS/17

Why business is wrong about rates

THAT BEWILDERING - and growing - Dad's Army of industrialists warning that we're all doomed unless somebody does something about interest rates has evidently gone unheeded at the Bank of England, and rightly so. What do businessmen mean when they urge Tony Blair to "recapture control of the UK economy"? Do they really want financial markets out of the saddle and the politicians back in? Surely not. Their rantings are beginning to sound as unrealistic as they are misguided.

The latest Inflation Report, which reflects the consensus amongst the nine members of the MPC, puts the risk of economy-wide recession next year at just one in eight, compared to a one in three risk of inflation rising to the level - 3.5 per cent and over - that requires the Governor to write a formal letter to the Chancellor explaining the Bank's failure to meet the Government's inflation target.

The Bank's new inflation forecast is far more pessimistic than the May forecast, as well as being more realistic in recognising that now, as in every business cycle downturn, inflation will continue to climb long after the economy has begun to slow.



OUTLOOK

In any case, a slowdown in growth is not a recession, though perhaps ominously, the Bank does recognise for the first time in its latest inflation report the possibility of recession in its worst case assumptions. Manufacturing is at the sharp end, worse affected by the strong pound and Asia's troubles than other sectors of the economy. But interest rates have to be set according to the average, not the weakest area of growth. The doomsayers deserve every sympathy, but they must certainly not have the last word on monetary policy.

Yet while it is safe to conclude there is going to be no early cut in the cost of borrowing, it would be

rash to assume another increase is definitely on the cards. For as the quarterly report also makes clear output growth is slowing sharply even if outright recession is unlikely. The message is that the business cycle has not been vanquished. The boom was not as big as the last one, the bust will not be as bad, but the British economy cannot avoid an episode of slower growth and higher inflation.

The Report therefore lays the groundwork for the Governor to argue that it is too late to bring inflation back on course in the short term. The one-in-three odds of inflation rising above the upper ceiling of the inflation target were laid before the election, even if, as the Bank now implicitly admits, it moved slow in its early months of independence to correct the problem.

Even so, the MPC should not be worrying too much about milk already spilt. Instead it should concentrate on the future. Its decisions now will not be reflected in the inflation figures for another two years. That is about how long it takes for the pace of economic activity to affect prices all the way down the chain to consumers.

Getting the message across

about the need to run monetary policy pre-emptively is tricky. It has not been made easier by the fact that the MPC has been somewhat behind the curve for much of its existence. It should have been raising rates more aggressively last year, despite low inflation, as growth was well above trend.

Luckily, the next phase of the cycle is the one where pre-emptive steps will be popular, where rates ought to fall even if inflation is rising. The minutes of July's MPC meeting, also released yesterday, suggest that the debate on the MPC is actually as strongly divided as ever even though the Bank of England Nine opted, wisely, to vote unanimously.

The next move in interest rates is still in the balance, and will depend on all the usual factors: how fast growth slows, how robust the pay and unemployment figures turn out, and whether the pound falls significantly over the rest of the summer.

The doomsayers of industry are wrong in their claim that rates should already be falling - and equally wrong in leaping to the conclusion that the Bank is determined to make loans even dearer whatever the cost to industry. Win-

ning the war against inflation is a subtler business than that, and the gloomy rhetoric of the Institute of Directors and the many industrialists who complain about the strong pound and high interest rates does no real service to the British economy.

Classic Murdoch move at BSkyB

THOSE IN the City who thought Rupert Murdoch, with Asian troubles and a scaraway Fox success story in the US to occupy his time, was starting to take a back seat in the affairs of BSkyB, should think again.

Yesterday's aggressively priced product offering for the company's digital launch this October was classic Murdoch. In its approach and intentions, the package is strongly reminiscent of his price cutting strategy in British national newspapers. No wonder shares in Michael Green's Carlton were hit by the announcement. Carlton is a 50 per cent shareholder in Sky's upstart pay TV competitor, ONDigital, and Sky's latest initiative seems as clear a signal as they come - Mr Murdoch is not going to sit idly

by and allow digital terrestrial to erode its dominant position.

One by one, Sky is addressing the supposed advantages of digital terrestrial over digital satellite. It has long been hard to see just what these were supposed to be, since the back bone of ONDigital's programming package was always going to be provided by Sky's sports and movie channels. Even so, ONDigital promised differentiation as a limited, cheap and cheerful digital pay TV offering set against Sky's 200 channel Rolls Royce product. Furthermore, you wouldn't have to buy and install a satellite dish to receive it.

All that now appears to have gone out the door. Last month Sky announced free dish installation for those taking its digital services. Now it's come up with a price competitive programming package which on the face of it is bound to be superior to what ONDigital can offer - if only because for round about the same price there's a lot more of it. There will always be a quite sizeable market out there of those who cannot or will not have a satellite dish on the outside of their house, but if ONDigital is not careful, it may find that this is its only market. Whether that's big

enough to sustain the operation is anyone's guess.

One thing is clear: Rupert Murdoch is determined to keep his new competitor in the position of no more than parasite feeding off the pig's belly.

Ritblat spots his chance to move

JOHN RITBLAT, that consummate survivor of the British property scene, is rarely out of the headlines for long and yesterday he was back with a vengeance. The City was left guessing over his intentions after he emerged as a 3.2 per cent shareholder in Selfridges, the Oxford Street store.

Newly demerged from Sears, Selfridges has long looked like a better property than retail play. At the time of its listing it virtually admitted that if it had to pay a commercial rent for its Oxford Street property, it would barely be profitable. With the shares trading below net asset value, Mr Ritblat has spotted and acted on this obvious potential. Whether he can persuade management to act to realise that value without making a full scale bid is another thing.

IN BRIEF

Sumitomo pays £61m to settle

SUMITOMO CORP is to pay \$99m (£61m) to settle six class action suits filed in New York over losses stemming from illegal deals by a rogue copper trader.

The Japanese company, which lost \$2.6bn in 1996 on unauthorised off-the-book deals by copper trader Yasuo Hamanaka, did not admit any wrongdoing or liability.

Volvo steps in

MAYFLOWER, the maker of car and commercial vehicle bodies, yesterday called on the board of Dennis to clarify its advice to shareholders in light of the bids tabled by both Henlys and Mayflower.

Dennis has told shareholders to take no action pending clarification from Henlys, the bus maker with which it had agreed a merger before Mayflower made a higher, 450p a share offer on Monday. Dennis' original offer had valued Dennis shares at 362p each.

However, in a surprise boost for Henlys, Volvo stepped in, saying it was buying a 10 per cent stake in Henlys. Dennis shares fell 11.5p to 463.5p, Henlys fell 1p to 565p, and Mayflower ended unchanged at 176.5p.

Japan-US talks

THE US Treasury Secretary, Robert Rubin, and Japan's new Finance Minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, will meet during the first weekend of September in San Francisco, a Treasury Department spokesman said.

The spokesman did not elaborate on the schedule or indicate whether the US or Japan sought the meeting.

Power purchase

CALENERGY, the power plant developer, yesterday said it remained committed to its UK subsidiary, Northern Electric, after it agreed to buy MidAmerican Energy Holdings for \$4.1bn (£2.5bn) in cash and assumed debt. The deal is the first time an independent American power producer has bought a utility.

CalEnergy will pay \$2.77 cash for each MidAmerican share, a 36 per cent premium to MidAmerican's closing share price on Tuesday; and assume \$1.4bn in debt and preferred stock.

MidAmerican, the largest utility in Iowa, has a network of power plants that burn coal, the lowest-cost fuel for electricity, and transmission lines that feed into the \$6.3bn Chicago market, where electricity prices have historically been higher than other parts of the Midwest.

Seagram boost

SEAGRAM, the Montreal-based group that became the world's largest recording company in May when it brought PolyGram for \$10.4bn (£8.4bn), reported an unexpected fiscal fourth-quarter profit as gains in its music, theme park and television businesses offset lower liquor sales in Asia. Its shares rose 11 per cent in early trade in New York.



After the war ended in December 1945, people queued along the streets to buy gin and whisky from the traditional off-licence shops

News analysis: 300 shops, 1,500 jobs axed as Victoria Wine and Thresher link to fight supermarkets

Not much cheer at the local off-licence

UP TO 300 off-licences are to close with the loss of 1,500 jobs following the confirmation yesterday that Allied Domecq and Whitbread are merging their Victoria Wine and Thresher chains.

The merger, yet to be cleared by the competition authorities, will create a business with sales of £1.3bn, 3,000 shops, 20,000 staff and 13 per cent of the market for take-away drinks, putting it second behind Tesco, which has an estimated 14 per cent share.

However, if "booze cruise" imports are factored in the biggest market share is now held by the ferry companies and hypermarkets of Calais and the other Channel ports. These account for an estimated 15 per cent of the alcohol drunk at home in Britain.

The Victoria Wine-Thresher merger will produce savings of £10m to £20m a year and will increase the buying power of the combined group, which has seen market shares slowly whittled away by the supermarkets in the last decade.

The number of outlets licensed to sell alcohol has mushroomed from 32,000 in 1990 to 52,000 today. At the same time, the number of traditional off-licences has shrunk dramatically under the combined challenge of supermarkets and convenience stores. The big supermarkets, led by Tesco and Sainsbury's, command 65 per cent of the market against 31 per cent for specialised off-licences, and are growing their share at a rate of about 1 point a year.

Jerry Walton, the managing director of Thresher, said the merger would help protect choice on the high street. "The combination of the supermarket multiples and the booze cruise phenomenon has made life very tough. In itself this merger will not alter that, but it will give us enough clout to

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

names of Victoria Wine Cellars, Haddows, Martha's Vineyard and The Finkin. Thresher's 5,470 shops trade as Wine Rack, Bottoms Up, Thresher Wine Shop, Drunks Cabin and Buttons.

Beyond these, the only chains of significance are Parisa (formerly the Greenall's Cellars Five chain), Unwins, Oddbins, which aims to cater for wine buffs, and Majestic.

The Thresher and Victoria Wine shops will continue to trade under their separate brands, unlike previous mergers in the industry. When Thresher took over Peter Dominic in 1991, the shops were rebranded under the Thresher name. When Victoria Wine bought the Augustus Barnett chain in 1993, the 550 branches it inherited were all changed to Victoria Wine outlets.

Despite consolidation, traditional off-licences have continued to lose market share to supermarkets and convenience stores. The big supermarkets, led by Tesco and Sainsbury's, command 65 per cent of the market against 31 per cent for specialised off-licences, and are growing their share at a rate of about 1 point a year.

Mr Vaughan points out that although there will be cost savings, the merger will do nothing for either Thresher or Victoria Wine's sales line. He says the average off-licence has about 1,000 square feet of space, whereas larger Asda and Tesco stores have 3,000 to 4,000 square feet for off-licences sales. "That means the tradi-

tional off-licences just don't have the space to offer the depth or range that you can find in a supermarket."

Mr Walton disputes this. He concedes it will be difficult to stock a wider range because of size, but he says that together

the two chains sell 1,000 different wines and that the average Thresher shop offers 450 wines.

"Typically, one of our Bottoms Up stores will have 550 wines on offer - not even a big Tesco stocks that many."

He also says the merged

group will look at increasing its number of wine warehouses using the existing Martha's Vineyard platform pioneered by Victoria Wine.

The combined business will follow Parisa, which is now experimenting by putting cafés

inside its Wine Cellar outlets.

Where Mr Vaughan and Mr Walton agree is that there would be little sense in referring the merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Although the combined chain would control more than 30 per cent of the country's traditional off-licences, Thresher argues that this is no longer a distinct market. "There are 52,000 off-licence outlets and we will have 3,000 of them," says Mr Walton. "Walk down any high street and there are myriad places to buy booze."

Mr Vaughan says that if the two chains are forced to remain independent the future is indeed bleak. Even if they merge there is another threat. Petrol station operators are lobbying to be treated in the same way as supermarkets who are allowed to sell drink and petrol on site.

"If the law is relaxed and alcohol starts being sold on the forecourt, that really will be a nail in the coffin of the off-licence," says Mr Vaughan.



Source: Home Office

BICC to axe Welsh jobs as cable demand slumps

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

up, then I can manage with less people." A team was working on the cost-cutting plan at the moment.

Mr Jones said BICC would not take a "slash 'n' burn" route, insisting that any job losses would be minimal.

However, his comments come just a day after the industrial gas-maker BOC said it was to cut 5,000 jobs worldwide, including 500 in the UK.

News of the potential job cuts came after BICC reported a 5% fall in interim pre-tax profit to £29m on turnover down to £1.9bn from £2.0bn last year. The shares closed unchanged at 111.5p.

The company blamed the poor results on a profits dive by its European cables business, which

had been triggered by the price slump in fibre-optics. BICC said that in the short-term the tough trading conditions for its European cable operations were likely to continue, with oversupply and subdued demand expected to dent profits further.

Weak Asian markets and a delay by the UK competition authorities in approving an asset swap with rival Delta damped profits further.

The Balfour Beatty construction and engineering division proved the bright spot, reporting a near doubling of profits to £30m. Mr Jones said the division had benefited from a number of railway contracts, including a £100m deal for the remodelling of Euston Station. The company was well placed to win further contracts on the West Coast Main Line.

The deal with MCI will be completed when the US group's merger with WorldCom is finally cleared by the US Federal Communications

Commission later this month. At the same time, WorldCom will pay BT £7bn in cash in exchange for its 20 per cent shareholding in MCI.

Analysts said the price BT had paid was largely as expected. The deal values MCI at about £4bn - a multiple of about four times its annual revenues. MCI currently has 3,800 customers in more than 50 countries.

BT said the transaction would have a "negligible" effect on its earnings. In the City, BT shares rose 18.5p to 823.5p.

The company added that the price had been agreed by negotiation between the two parties.

The MCI stake was a leftover from BT's long-standing alliance with MCI, under which the US group distributed Concert services to its multinational customers.

Although the venture was initially very successful, the relationship turned sour when BT agreed a merger with MCI, only to renegotiate the deal after MCI's performance turned out to worse than expected. That opened the door for WorldCom, which trumped BT's offer with a £42bn bid.

Following the completion of the WorldCom-MCI merger, MCI will continue to distribute Concert services on a non-exclusive basis for two years. In addition, MCI and Concert will continue to support contracts signed before the end of that period for a further three years.

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Rally

MAIN MOVERS											
RISES						FALLS					
PRICES/P						PRICES/P					
EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES 0.00/+0.00						EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES 0.00/+0.00					
Shire Pharm 382.50 29.50 12.20						Castrol 26.00 -4.00 -14.90					
Skiplights 221.50 17.00 8.21						Bovis & Gavron 400.00 -57.50 -16.78					
Schroders 127.00 96.00 8.12						Ideal Hardware 247.50 -25.00 -5.17					
Sizing 180.00 -14.00 7.67						Boggs 1082.50 -110.00 -9.15					
Dunica Bros 140.00 8.00 6.21						Gulf Oil 129.00 -1.00 -7.86					
FDI Action Value 30.25 2.50 5.47						Rigby 81.00 -6.50 -7.43					
Flouring Asia 35.50 2.25 6.77						Lowe's 200.25 -16.75 -7.28					
MFI 48.50 3.00 6.45						Asgro 55.00 -4.00 -7.83					
Morgan Stanley 233.50 146.00 13.88						Andrea Sykes 167.50 -10.00 -5.61					
NatWest 350.50 21.50 6.29						Toskrek 262.50 -14.00 -5.25					
LIFE ASSURANCE 0.00/+0.00											
AIA 211.50 10.50 5.17						Oxford Water 129.00 -1.00 -7.86					
Cigna 178.00 -21 16.20 12.26						Prestige Life 100.00 0.00 5.43					
Globe 150.00 14.50 11.21						Prudential Life 102.50 -1.00 -7.86					
Guaranty 150.00 14.50 11.21						Reliance 178.00 -21 16.20 12.26					
Hiscox 150.00 14.50 11.21						Standard Life 150.00 0.00 5.17					
Hiscox 150.00 14.50 11.21						State Life 150.00 0.00 5.17					
Hiscox 150.00 14.50 11.21						Swiss Re 150.00 0.00 5.17					
Hiscox 150.00 14.50 11.21						Vivat 150.00 0.00 5.17					
Hiscox 150.00 14.50 11.21						Witton 150.00 0.00 5.17					
MEDIA 0.00/+0.00											
AOL 150.00 14.50 11.21						Brentford 150.00 0.00 5.17					
BBC 150.00 14.50 11.21						Cable & Wireless 150.00 0.00 5.17					
Channel 4 150.00 14.50 11.21						Carrington 150.00 0.00 5.17					
ITV 150.00 14.50 11.21						Cirque du Soleil 150.00 0.00 5.17					
ITV 150.00 14.50 11.21						CNA 150.00 0.00 5.17					
ITV 150.00 14.50 11.21						Cox 150.00 0.00 5.17					
ITV 150.00 14.50 11.21						Dailymail 150.00 0.00 5.17					
ITV 150.00 14.50 11.21						DSTV 150.00 0.00 5.17					
ITV 150.00 14.50 11.21						EBC 150.00 0.00 5.17					
ITV 150.00 14.50 11.21						Euronews 150.00 0.00 5.17					
ITV 150.00 14.50 11.21						Fox 150.00 0.00 5.17					
ITV 150.00 14.50 11.21						Globe 150.00 0.00 5.17					
ITV 150.00 14.50 11.21						Global 150.00 0.00 5.17					
ITV 150.00 14.50 11.21						Granada 150.00 0.00 5.17					
ITV 150.00 14.50 11.21						HBO 150.00 0.00 5.17					
ITV 150.00 14.50 11.21						ITV 150.00 0.00 5.17					
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ITV 150.00 14.50 11.21						ITV 150.00 0.00 5.17					

Rally peters out as nerves take hold

AN UNEASY roller-coaster session left Footsie clinging to a slender gain. Determined attempts to stage significant rallies petered out and by the close the index had to be content with a modest 29.4 points recovery to 5,462.2.

It got off to a fine start and within minutes achieved a 6.5 gain. But that proved to be the day's high point.

After the deluge of indifferent domestic data there had been hopes that yesterday's round of rather more encouraging developments and a more steady performance by overseas markets would bolster confidence.

But the stock market was too tense and nervous to allow any realistic display of optimism to seep through to shares.

Even British Petroleum was dragged into the morass. At one time the shares were up 26p. Then American arbitrageurs started to play and the gain was steadily whittled away until the shares were left nursing a 1p fall at 794p. Still the oil giant, as befits what will be the nation's biggest company when the Amoco take over goes through, made a big

contribution to the market's trading volume, with Seag putting turnover at more than 73 million shares. Other oils failed to attract the expected support with Lasmo off 15.75p to 200.25p and Enterprise Oil retreating 4.5p to 40.5p.

The mid cap index managed moderate headway but the small cap had another bruising session as investors continued to dump shares. It ended 8 lower at 2,359.7, only 39.5 above its year's low.

The shortage of liquidity in small cap shares is exaggerating many of

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

the falls. In uncertain times investors are often prepared to dump shares if they are still hugging profits.

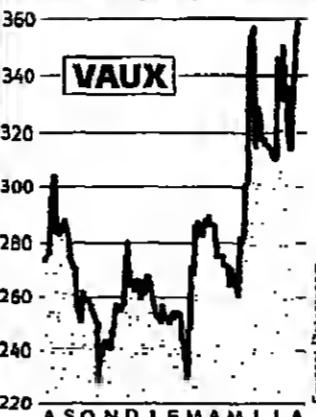
The smaller companies had a great run earlier this year and even when the liquidity problem reduces the price investors expect they are often still prepared to trade.

Vaux, the brewing and hotel group, is not a particularly liquid stock. Yet it attracted a 1 million-plus turnover as the shares stretched to a new high, encouraged by continuing take over speculation.

The price closed at 329.5p, up 21p. The latest suggestion is a deal next week. Some are shooting for a bid - Whitbread is the favourite - but there is also a growing belief new chief executive Martin Grant will attempt to realise shareholder value by demerging the highly successful Swallow hotel side from the brewing and pub operations.

Swallow is the jewel in the Vaux crown. It could well star as a stand-alone quoted company and remove the take over pressure from the group. With Whitbread, as well as Bass, keen to increase their hotel

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Source: Department

portfolio shares of an independent Swallow could have an exciting run.

Earlier this year Vaux admitted it had received an "unsolicited" approach which was subsequently abandoned. Almost certainly the rebuffed bidder was Stakis, the casino and hotel chain. It could be tempted to return if Vaux agrees bid terms with another group.

Stakis as well as the two-brewers would be unlikely to retain Vaux's breweries and pubs if they acquired the group.

Dennis, the fire engine maker, retreated 11.5p to 463.5p after it became clear Volvo was not prepared to add fire power to any Henlys' revised bid. The Swedes, it seems, are content to restrain their involvement to buying 10 per cent of Henlys.

Leisure groups Springwood and Waterfall called off their merger talks. Some would say not before time. In the few days the two have been talking Springwood has fallen 41p and Waterfall 10p. But Booker, involved in possible bid talks, rose a further 3p to 257.5p.

Tesco turned 15p to 171.5p as the supermarket chain's two stockbrokers, BT Alex Brown and Morgan Stanley, trimmed their profit forecasts.

Hacars, demerged from Sears last month, ended its decline from its 236.5p launch price when British Land emerged as a 31.4 per cent stakeholder. The department store, which had fallen below its asset value, rose 17p to 231.5p.

Figures helped Shire Pharmaceutical to a 39.5p gain to 362.5p although the company still faces problems following a fire at a US plant.

Glass maker Pilkington cracked again, hitting an 84p low and JD Wetherspoon, the pub chain, went to a year's low, falling 60p to 235.5p.

Independent Insurance, ahead of what are expected to be impressive interim figures today, finished to 291.5p.

Two newcomers arrived, both via reverse takeovers by cash shells. Tafismann House traded at 5.5p against a 5p suspension. Once called Captain OM Watts, a yacht chandler, it now embraces stockbroker Ellis & Partners and financial boutique Clifton Financial, two operations specialising in handling small companies.

Hacars, which offers advisory services on housing and an assured homes business, reversed into General Industries. The shares traded at 39.5p against a 36p suspension.

SEAG VOLUME: 833.5m
SEAG TRADES: 60,199
GILTS INDEX: n/a

AMBIENT MEDIA, which was traded at 92.5p when it arrived in June, put on 3p to 67.5p. It has emerged as a major beneficiary of a deal giving NCR the right to use the front and reverse of National Westminster Bank ATM cash receipts for advertisements. An Ambient off-shoot has been given the task of selling the advertising space. Five other institutions are expected to follow the NatWest lead.

ANTONOV, developing a gear box, accelerated 13p to 95p. The shares have been as high as 144p. This week Antonov fixed up its ninth licensing deal and Credit Lyonnais, the company's recently appointed stockbroker, has initiated coverage by putting a 300p target on the shares.

FIRESTONE DIAMONDS, the South African explorer and producer, is expected to make its debut tomorrow. Shares were placed at 114p.

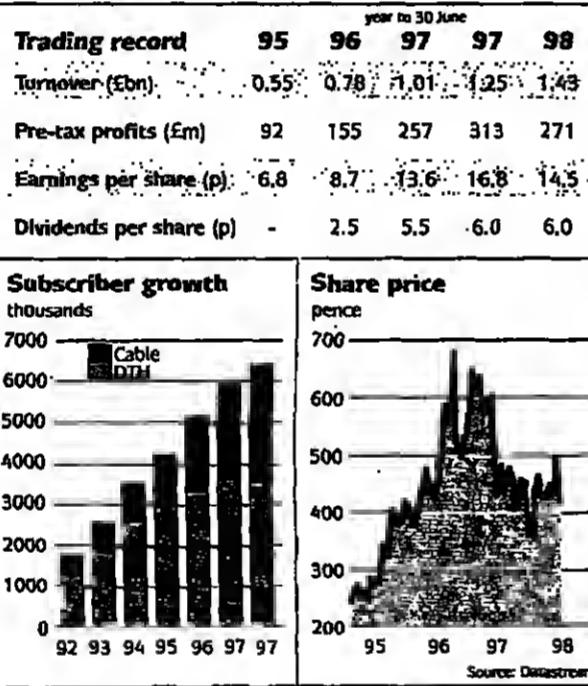
It's time to tune in to Sky's profit potential

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

BSKYB: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £7.42bn, share price 428p (+10.5p)



Builders' net slows BICC fall

INVESTORS IN BICC could be forgiven for thinking that someone has cast a spell on the company. For more than a year the cable and engineering group has been lurking from crisis to crisis through little fault of its own.

Despite the management's brave efforts to stem the tide, the company was caught in a rocky cyclical downturn in its main markets.

First to go was the European energy cable business, savaged by a fall in demand and the strength of the pound. BICC's management responded swiftly, slashing more than 2,000 jobs in an effort to cut costs and bring the business back on track.

But just as BICC was looking forward to reaping the benefits of this painful medi-

cine, the fibre-optic business took a tumble. In the past year prices for hi-tech cables have slumped more than 25 per cent as increased competition and lower demand from European telecoms companies pushed the market into overcapacity.

This collapse was behind yesterday's £9m fall in interim pre-tax profits to £46m. The earnings shortfall would have been greater had it not been for a scintillating performance from Balfour Beatty. BICC's construction and engineering subsidiary. The division's profits almost doubled to £30m, boosted by major railway contracts in the UK and good growth internationally.

In spite of Balfour's good news, the outlook is bleak. Prices and margins in the cables business will remain subdued in the near term, as oversupply continues to dominate the fibre-optic market, while energy cables are not expected to recover until 1999.

Balfour's growth will also moderate as construction gets caught in the inevitable UK economic slowdown.

True, most of this doom and gloom is already in the price which, after yesterday's 0.5p rise to 112p, is on a measty 11 times 1998 earnings. But until there is a firm sign of an upturn in cables, the shares are no more than a hold.

War games can still march on

IS THE fantasy over at Games Workshop? The war games maker had been one of the great growth stocks of the past few years until May, when a profits warning shot the price down in flames.

The company blamed much of its shortfall on the strong pound, which wiped £2.3m off the bottom line in the year to end May. Without this, profits would have been up 23 per cent. In fact, they rose just 3.5 per cent to £11.5m.

The real problems, however, were caused by poor stock management, exacerbated by the effects of consolidating the business on one site. Games Workshop also pushed through a misguided price hike which led to a 6 per cent drop in UK sales. The company says the former has been put right while the latter will not be repeated.

The company shows no sign of slowing the expansion programme which has been largely responsible for its growth to date. It plans a further 34 outlets this year 28 of them outside the UK. It may have a point. Pocket money spending is relatively recession-proof and toy soldiers have a timeless appeal.

If constant exchange rates are assumed, profits in the current year are expected to rise to £14.5m and earnings per share to 30.1p compared with 31.8p before the warning. The shares rose 12p to 462.5p, but they are still far below the peak of 537p when the warning was issued. On a forward multiple of 15 they are worth a look.

IN BRIEF

Profits down at healthcare firm

THE COST of changing computer systems to cope with the year 2000 date hug, and the failure to get new facilities in the behavioural medicine division on stream on time, led to an 11 per cent fall in profits before exceptional to £16.1m in the year to end May at Westminster Healthcare.

After exceptions, profits before tax were up 15 per cent to £13.6m. Turnover rose by 31 per cent to £145m and operating profits were up 13 per cent to £26.8m.

Treats sales fall

POOR WEATHER caused a 3 per cent fall in sales at Treats Group, the UK's largest independent ice-cream maker. Profits halved to just £1.25m in the six months to 28 June, the chairman, Brian Fidler, said.

The impulse lolly market was down a quarter in June, July was also dull and the costs of increased capacity have raised borrowings. No interim dividend is paid, but the company is changing its name to Richmond Foods and changing its year-end to 30 September.

Building gains

MORGAN SUNDALL, the specialist construction group, increased profits by 54 per cent to a record £5.05m on a 21 per cent increase in turnover to £16.9m in the six months to the end of June.

In addition to trading profits, the core businesses pushed profits up 49 per cent to £3.99m. The order book is strong and the full year should show further progress, the chief executive, John Morgan, said.

FKI sells Acco

FKI has sold its Acco Systems division to Durr Inc for \$22.5m (£13.7m) in cash. Acco makes conveyor systems for heavy industrial use, largely in the US car industry. Proceeds will be used to reduce debt. The disposal completes the sale of non-core car-related businesses.

All change on top of the Standard

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



him. Poor John Ellwood, his successor as chief executive of the bank, can hardly get a word past Sir Brian at most press conferences. Still, no one ever went bust investing in the bank that Sir Brian built.

"IF MARS had a currency, we would recommend it as none of those on earth looks very appealing at the moment." A point well made by the forex team at NatWest Global Financial Markets in their latest weekly briefing note. But not terribly helpful to clients.

WHILE ATTENDING the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand yesterday morning, I spotted a notice which made my heart sink to my boots.

Let me explain. Anyone wishing to search through the latest writs issued, and thus find out who is suing who, can only do so by paying various search fees. This means you have to visit the fees room on the other side of the Strand.

How ironic that it was an Arthur Andersen partner, John Talbot, who spearheaded the investigation of the £400m pension fund fraud after the death of Mr Maxwell. Mr Talbot, who now heads up AA's corporate finance operations worldwide, must chuckle as he passes the Holborn editor where he did so much of his investigating, now inhabited by his erstwhile consultancy colleagues.

CONGRATULATIONS to Alan Moore, who has succeeded John Davies as deputy chairman of Lloyds TSB.

Mr Moore's first big job was as director general of the Bahrain Monetary Agency before he joined Lloyds Bank International in 1980. He will sit alongside Lloyds TSB's other deputy chairman, Sir Nicholas Goodison.

Meanwhile Sir Brian Pitman, who ascended from chief executive to chairman a couple of years ago, sits on a sprightly 66 years old. If he wants to go on after 70 it will take a special resolution at an agm, but I wouldn't put it past him.

AT LEAST you get a better class of lav wall graffiti in the Royal Courts of Justice. There's currently a sign above the basin in one of the loos apologising for a temporary absence of hot water. The sign adds: "We apologise for any inconvenience caused."

Some wag has added: "How strange to be inconvenienced by a public convenience."

RANA TALWAR, chief executive designate at Standard Chartered, has wasted no time in reorganising top management following the surprise departure last month of Alexander Au, who resigned as a group executive director just six weeks into the job.

Standard had hired Mr Au from HSBC, and he started in June. Then Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation offered him the job of chief executive - and he was off.

Mr Talwar was named as Malcolm Williamson's successor at the top just as Mr Au started his short stint. The new boss has given responsibility for the Middle East and South Asia to Christopher Castleman, a fellow director. Meanwhile, Mr Talwar will personally take charge of legal and compliance and external affairs".

Mervyn Davies, currently in charge of Standard's businesses in Hong Kong and China, will take over the bank's economists, and Peter Wood will take on "governance responsibility" for the UK, the bank said yesterday. Michael Green will be in charge of audit and investigations.

TALKING OF Standard, Theresa Foo, chief executive of Standard Chartered Bank Singapore, and her sister are being sued by their younger brother for \$255,000 (£120,000) over a house sold by their late mother.

Yeo Cheng Hay, Ms Foo's brother, told a Singapore court that his late mother forced him to sell her half-share in the house at a below-market price of \$827,500 to pay off a \$90,000 credit card debt. The house was eventually sold for \$51.25m seven years ago and Ms Foo was one of the main beneficiaries of her mother's will after her death in 1994.

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SPORT

Guru guarantee good for Montgomerie

GOLF

BY ANDY PARRELL
in Seattle

IF THERE is one statistic of interest to Colin Montgomerie and Lee Westwood as they tee up at Sahalee today, it is that nine of the last 10 winners of the USPGA Championship have been first-time major champions. Also comforting for Montgomerie in particular who in the year of his 35th birthday has finished eighth, 18th and missed the cut in the three majors so far, Mark O'Meara, at the age of 41, has suddenly become a major winner for the second time.

"Whether it happens at 35 or 40, I feel I can win a major," Montgomerie said. "To that end, and much against his past philosophy, the Scot

has been the first to arrive at the course each morning this week. "For the first time, I am really going out to practice," he admitted.

Montgomerie also arrived early to spend some time with Dave Pelz, a putting coach from Texas who he first got to know when at the University of Houston. "I regret not going to a specialist on the short game earlier," Montgomerie said.

"I have come off too many rounds

this season having played well but just not got the reward that I deserved. I have had enough of that and I want to do something about it. The Open was the final straw. Missing the cut at the Open was pretty poor, but so were Loch Lomond and Ireland. I want to stay at the top because that's where I enjoy competing. I don't enjoy competing for 30th place."

Before Lee Janzen worked with Pelz, the guru guaranteed that his next tournament would provide a victory. Janzen duly booked the lesson for the week before the US Open. Rather than an instant reward, Montgomerie has more of a five to eight-year plan in mind to remain at the top. The first few sessions have gone well. "Dave is a very positive person. He has given me some positive thoughts and I feel I am putting better than when I arrived."

Keeping the ball straight off the tee is going to be a strong asset for Montgomerie on a course that is so closely lined with trees.

"There is a real chance that the winner might come from the European tour this week," Westwood said. "This is not the hardest course I've played in America but it is a very

CARD OF THE COURSE

Hole	Yards	Par	Hole	Yards	Par
1	405	4	10	401	4
2	507	5	11	546	5
3	415	4	12	458	4
4	386	4	13	175	3
5	195	3	14	374	4
6	480	4	15	417	4
7	421	4	16	377	4
8	444	4	17	215	3
9	213	3	18	475	4
Out	3,457	35	In	3,439	35
Total	6,896	yards, par 70			

good test. It has a European feel."

Compared to Wentworth or Woburn, however, "the trees are a little taller".

Tommy Armour, the "Silver Scot", was the last European-born player to win the USPGA. That was in 1930 and he was a naturalised American by then anyway.

Westwood has gone into each of the majors so far this year with the expectations high, because he had won the week before two of them and had recently had back-to-back victories before the other. He has avoided the trap this time by taking two weeks off. He spent the time on holiday in the Algarve but also took some time practising. "I wanted to keep my eye in, although I have felt a little bit rusty," he said.

Prior to the tournament, Sahalee, which just slips into the top-100 in a ranking of the best courses in the States, received mixed reviews. The PGA of America has made a concerted effort to discover new venues for their championship, as well as visiting established sites like Winged Foot, where Davis Love won 12 months ago.

Though Woods and the other big hitters will have to keep the driver in their bags, the approach shots are going to have to be shaped carefully around the cedar trees, the tallest of which are more than 100ft high.

Despite being the world No 1, Woods has been left behind in the major stakes by two of his neighbours at the Isleworth club in Orlando. O'Meara stands on the verge of equaling Ben Hogan's unique achievement of winning three majors in a year in 1953, while Janzen took the US Open.

"I know this is my last chance of winning a major this year but I'm not going to put myself under any more pressure than usual," said Woods, whose best finish this year was his third place in the Open at Birkdale.

The important thing is to give myself a chance, be patient and not shoot myself in the foot. Last year I was guilty of being a little bit too rumbustious and not being as patient as I need to be."

British Women's Open: Se Ri Pak's first experience of a links course proves tough lesson for outstanding young golfer

New world of riches for the Korea girl

BY TIM GLOVER
at Royal Lytham and St Anne's

AS FAR as the commentators were concerned it was the play-off from Hell: Se Ri Pak versus Jenny Chuasiriporn. The former finally put everybody out of their misery by winning the US Women's Open at Blackwolf Run, Wisconsin, in a 20 hole play-off.

If the men's game seems close to a new dawn, in the hands of players like Tiger Woods and Justin Rose, the women's equivalent has Se Ri Pak and 1998 has been her year. At least it was until yesterday morning.

Before going out to play in a pro-am, which preceded the Weetabix British Open at Royal Lytham, the 26-year-old Korean was shown a newspaper which described her as a "gangster's daughter". Pak, who has been brought up by her father, Joon Chul Pak, to keep her emotions under control, particularly in public, burst into tears. According to her manager, Sung Yong Kil, Miss Pak was so distraught that not only could she not eat her Weetabix, but she could barely lift a golf club.

He said that the article (which appeared in one of the country's ultra-conservative broadsheets) was a disgrace. Thank goodness the tabloids were not involved.

The article further claimed that Joon Chul had been stabbed in 1992 and was close to death. "He was never a gangster and he was never stabbed," Sung

Yong Kil said. "He was attacked once and he was a tough guy but he had a tough upbringing. The United States has very strict immigration laws and he would never have been allowed to move there had he been a gangster. He has no criminal record."

Anyway, Pak dried her tears and gamely took part in the pro-am. "I don't want to tell you my score," she said. "It's a secret." She shot 82, 10 over par. However, she did not blame her demise on the "gangster's daughter" headline, but the fact that she has entered, on the Lancashire coast, a whole new world. It is her first visit to Europe, and the first time she has played a links course.

"Everything was different and difficult," she said. "It was tough. I was a little cold, a little stiff. I have to learn. It was good practice."

At the eighth she managed to lose a ball but, good grief, even Gary Player has managed to do that at Royal Lytham.

No golfer, male or female, has won three major championships as a rookie and this week Pak has the chance to do just that. Prior to that extraordinary victory in the US Open, she had won the McDonald's LPGA. She is already the youngest player to win the US Open and the youngest to win two women's majors in a season. Nor was that the end of the story.

At the Jamie Farr Kroger Classic in Ohio last month she shot 61 in the second round, the lowest score in LPGA history. Her four-round total of 261, 23 under par, was four strokes lower than the existing record. It was her third victory in four weeks and, in her first season, she went to the top of the US money list with almost \$800,000 (£500,000).

When he was not being linked to Korea's underworld, Mr Pak, a building contractor from Daejun, about 100 miles south of Seoul, was a useful amateur golfer. His daughter picked up her first club at the age of 11. "I was in a park practising my chip shots," Mr Pak recalled, "and she asked if she could try it. In less than 30 minutes she was gripping the club perfectly and was hitting surprisingly good shots."

The story most often told about their relationship is a spooky one. Four years ago he pitched a tent in the middle of a cemetery. She was, apparently, terrified of cemeteries. Intermittently they spent three months living among the dead. "People said I was crazy, insane, but I wanted to develop her confidence and toughness," Mr Pak said. "At night I would tell her ghost stories and finally one day she said: 'I'm warm here'.

I knew then her heart was strong and we never went back to the cemetery."

Miss Pak said: "I had respect for my father and I stayed with golf because I wanted to prove that he wasn't crazy."

She won 30 tournaments in South Korea before turning professional in 1996 and then she won six out of 14 and finished second seven times. Last year Mr Pak sent his daughter to live in Orlando, Florida, where she has been coached by David Leadbetter, the man who remodelled Nick Faldo's swing. Samsung, the South Korean company that signed Miss Pak in 1996, has been picking up Leadbetter's bill.

The Samsung contract is currently being renegotiated and she is expected to sign. Asian economic crisis or not, a 10-year deal worth at least \$10m (£6.2m).

Se Ri Pak has not got off to the best of starts on her maiden voyage to England but, according to Laura Davies, who is one of the favourites for the British Open, the Korea girl cannot be underestimated.

"If you are playing well you can perform in any conditions," Davies said. "I am sure she can play it. It's a tough course but if you're as solid as she is, I wouldn't imagine that she'd consider the wind as a big deal. She's got the game to win anywhere."

With record prize-money of



Se Ri Pak gets used to the rough in the practice round for the Weetabix British Women's Open at Royal Lytham yesterday

Barry Greenwood

Davies targets 'biggest event of all'

LAURA DAVIES, the former world No 1, has set the scene for the Weetabix British Women's Open, which starts at Royal Lytham today, by describing it as "the biggest event of them all".

"Playing at Lytham is a real treat," Davies said yesterday. "With all the history and tradition surrounding the men's Open, you feel surrounded by history walking up the 18th fairway. To win on this course would be the greatest moment of my career."

With record prize-money of

£575,000 – the winner will become the first woman golfer in Europe to collect a £100,000 winner's cheque – the line-up has the quality to match and includes all this season's major winners.

The South Korean Se Ri Pak, who

has won the US Open and McDon-

ald's LPGA Championship in her

rookie year, heads a cast that also includes the two Americans who have won majors this season – Pet

Burst (Nabisco Dinah Shore) and

Brandie Burton (du Maurier

Classic).

But Davies was delighted. "This weather suits me down to the ground," she said. "The Americans will be beating, but they'll be out there with their windcheaters and bobble hats and I'm sure they'll enjoy it."

Davies reckons that Pak, despite

never having played in Britain be-

fore, will be a threat. "She has a solid game and can win anywhere," she said. Pak, 21 next month, admitted she is mentally exhausted after a season in which she has claimed two Tour titles as well as her double in the majors.

Anni Sorenstam, the world No 1 from Sweden, makes her first appearance in Europe this year aiming to win a first British Open to go with her 1995 and 1996 US Opens.

Catrina Matthew, of Scotland, the winner of the McDonald's WPGA Championship at Gleneagles last week, goes for back-to-back wins, while other leading British con-

The Don earns respect his way

FRANKIE DETTORI and the Derby-winning trainer Luca Cumiati may occupy the racing headlines, but another Italian success story is gathering pace. Having long been one of the most eye-catching names on a racecard but, famously, far less conspicuous in the results section, Don Enrico Incisa is sending out winners.

The 44-year-old trainer does not have runners in the South of England these days, where he says "they don't even look at you", but on the Northern circuit he is something of a cult figure. On Sunday, his 14th win of the season put him up to his previous best total here, set in 1997. This record figure would not sound very much were it not for his scores in the other 16 years that he has held a licence in Britain, from 1981 to 1996. These read: 0, 0, 0, 3, 1, 1, 2, 0, 2, 4, 1, 0, 3, 1.

Azamara says it may seem his runners over that rather barren period did attract some loyal support in the betting ring. "There was an old lady called Mrs Wrigley who always used to back my horses," Don Enrico says, "because she used to say, 'your horses seldom win, but when they win they are very good odds'. Unfortunately, she died last year."

Of the dramatic improvement in results, the trainer's explanation is: "Luck, and getting the right horses." Don Enrico picked it up more than 20 years later when he came to train in England.

In the meantime, the Cambridge graduate had completed

BEVERLEY

HYPERION
3-45 Ascari
4-15 Jedi Knight
3-15 SCOOP (nap)

GOING: Good to firm. **STALLS:** Inside. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** High numbers best up to a mile. **RIGHT-HAND:** galloping courses with very flat. **COURSES:** Good to firm. **ADMISSION:** Club £14; Tattersalls £20 (OAPs £10); Silver Ring £2 (Cups £2); Countess Enclosure £2 (OAPs £10); Picnic area £2 or £3 per person, plus £2 for occupant. **CAR PARK:** Free. **POSTCODE:** HU10 9JL. **LEADING TRAINERS:** M Johnson 30-13 (22%), J Berry 24-17 (17%), Mira J Ramsden 17-10 (5.5%). H Cecil 15-22 (5.5%). **LEADING JOCKEYS:** K Darby 23-27 (21.6%), K Fallon 24-18 (14.5%), J Weaver 24-18 (14.4%), G Moore 12-17 (12.4%). **FAVOURITES:** 1-1 (10.5%). **BUNKERED FIRST TIME:** Romance (4.5), Mandarin Melki (nominated, 4.5). **LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLER:** Pericles (2.9) & Duchess Of Ferrara (4.5) have been sent 276 miles.

2.15 TOLL GAVEL SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,500 added 21m 35yds Penalty Value £1,954

1 2216 BRODDESA (9) (C) (Mary Neville Racing) Mira J Ramsden 12.9 13 ... A Callum J 0.0002 BLOOMING AMANDA (9) (C) (Stammer) J Berry 7.0 ... Mr R Lockett 0.5 0.0030 PERICLES (10) (C) (Mrs G Kelly) G Holmes 4.5 5 ... Mr J Crozier 0.5 0.0034 BURNEY (7) (9) (C) (Farrance) J Roberts 4.0 1 ... Mr C Roberts 0.5 0.0056 GYPSYKAT FLYER (8) (7) (Gymcas Flyer) G Holmes 7.0 5 ... Mr A Jester 0.4 0.0062 PEGASUS (9) (8) (Peggy) G Holmes 7.0 5 ... Mr A Jester 0.4 0.0064 SCORCH (7) (8) (Scorch) G Holmes 7.0 5 ... Mr A Jester 0.4 0.0066 EURO SCOPIC (6) (C) (H Gervais) T Cassidy 8.0 10 ... Mr O H Donohoe 7.0 5 0.0068 MANDARIN (8) (8) (Mandarin) A Whittington 3.0 10 ... Mr O H Donohoe 7.0 5 0.0080 FRENCH PRICE (7) (8) (A Morano) J Berry 7.0 5 ... Mr J Ashton 0.5 0.0082

Minimum weight 75 lbs. True handicap weight: Mandarin 82 lbs, French Price 82 lbs.

BETTING: 4-1 Euro Scopic, 5-2 Mandarins, 6-1 Bally, 6-1 French Price.

2.45 BOLLINGER CHALLENGE HANDICAP (AMATEURS) (CLASS E) £4,000 7f 10yds Penalty Value £2,815

1 0.0026 BLOOMING AMANDA (9) (C) (Stammer) J Berry 8.0 ... Mr R Lockett 0.5 0.0030 PERICLES (10) (C) (Mrs G Kelly) G Holmes 4.5 5 ... Mr J Crozier 0.5 0.0034 BURNEY (7) (9) (C) (Farrance) J Roberts 4.0 1 ... Mr C Roberts 0.5 0.0056 GYPSYKAT FLYER (8) (7) (Gymcas Flyer) G Holmes 7.0 5 ... Mr A Jester 0.4 0.0062 PEGASUS (9) (8) (Peggy) G Holmes 7.0 5 ... Mr A Jester 0.4 0.0064 SCORCH (7) (8) (Scorch) G Holmes 7.0 5 ... Mr A Jester 0.4 0.0066 EURO SCOPIC (6) (C) (H Gervais) T Cassidy 8.0 10 ... Mr O H Donohoe 7.0 5 0.0068 MANDARIN (8) (8) (Mandarin) A Whittington 3.0 10 ... Mr O H Donohoe 7.0 5 0.0080 FRENCH PRICE (7) (8) (A Morano) J Berry 7.0 5 ... Mr J Ashton 0.5 0.0082

Minimum weight 75 lbs. True handicap weight: Mandarin 82 lbs, French Price 82 lbs.

BETTING: 4-1 Euro Scopic, 5-2 Mandarins, 6-1 Bally, 6-1 French Price.

3.15 PUNCH AND JUDY NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS C) £4,600 added 2YO 7f 10yds Penalty Value £3,456

1 0.0013 GLANYDDON (9) (C) (Lord Mabey) J Berry 7.0 ... G Cartie 0.5 0.0021 RUMBLE JACK (9) (C) (P. Hanmer) C Hartnett 8.0 ... C Leathem 1.0 0.0024 RUMBLE JACK (9) (C) (P. Hanmer) C Hartnett 8.0 ... C Leathem 1.0 0.0054 GYPSY (7) (7) (R) (P. Hanmer) K Fallon 8.0 ... K Fallon 0.5 0.0058 MYTTON'S MOMENT (7) (1) (G. Mytton) M. Bailey 8.0 ... K Fallon 0.5 0.0062 BOLIN RITA (7) (7) (R) (P. Hanmer) K Fallon 8.0 ... K Fallon 0.5 0.0064 LAUREN PRINCE (7) (7) (Lauren) Lut J Berry 7.0 ... T Leane 0.5 0.0066 COUNTRY TIMES (9) (9) (T. Cross) P. Hanmer 8.0 ... W Sample 0.5 0.0068 FERRY FACTORS (8) (C) (Bruce) P. Hanmer 7.0 ... C Leathem 0.5 0.0070 LITTLE HENRY (8) (C) (Bruce) P. Hanmer 7.0 ... C Leathem 0.5 0.0072 THATCHERS (7) (7) (C) (W. Macmillan) J. McMillan 7.0 ... J McMillan 0.5 0.0074 TOLL GAVEL (7) (7) (R) (P. Hanmer) K Fallon 8.0 ... K Fallon 0.5 0.0076 TOLL GAVEL (7) (7) (R) (P. Hanmer) K Fallon 8.0 ... K Fallon 0.5 0.0078 TOLL GAVEL (7) (7) (R) (P. Hanmer) K Fallon 8.0 ... 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Path to Lord's blazed by Cork

CRICKET

By JOHN COLLIS
at Leicester

Derbyshire 298-7;
Leicestershire 296-7;
Derbyshire won by two runs

DERBYSHIRE SNATCHED a dramatic last ball victory at Grace Road yesterday to set up a NatWest final showdown with Lancashire.

Wicketkeeper Paul Nixon, needing to hit at least three off the final delivery to give Leicestershire victory, failed to make contact and Dominic Cork's side celebrated in style.

When NatWest took over sponsorship of this competition in 1981, Derbyshire reached the final against Northamptonshire and won their only 60-over title on the last ball. The 21-year-old Kim Barnett was playing, as he was yesterday.

But if Derbyshire's opponents were looking for omens as to which side would meet Lancashire on 5 September, they could have pointed not only to the bookmaker's confidence, but also to the fact that they had never lost to Derbyshire in this competition.

But they also had to excuse memories of the Benson & Hedges final a month ago, when they were humiliated by Essex.

But matters could have been worse. At the scheduled start time it was raining, and the sky was filling in. In the last couple of years Leicester has become the new Manchester when it comes to cricketing weather but the clouds soon relented.

The home side had earned a semi-final by dismissing Warwickshire for 98, Alan Mullin

lally taking 5 cheap wickets. And once Michael Slater and Barnett had put on 162 for Derbyshire's first wicket, their quarter final against Surrey was to prove equally straightforward.

Chris Lewis, skipping Leicester in spite of a troublous back that ruled out his bowling, chose to field first, and at 58-3 in the 17th over Derbyshire were looking a little tentative. One of the three was Matt Cassar, for a duck – the same fate as was simultaneously suffered by his wife Jane in the second Women's Test against Australia.

But a sprightly stand of 120 by two of the visitors' less celebrated names, Robin Weston and Ben Spendlove, brought matters back to parity and some inspired hitting by Dominic Cork and Phil DeFreitas in the afternoon enabled Derbyshire to ask their opponents to score at five an over.

Cork, omitted from the England squad for the triangular competition which starts tomorrow, went to 50 in 55 balls, and DeFreitas' two big sixes were the first of the day. They put on 75 entertaining runs in 12 overs.

Phil Simmons, however, knows a thing or two about entertainment – the booming off drive and the arrogant loft over mid-wicket for a start.

After the early loss of Vince Wells, Leicestershire never allowed themselves to stray far below the required rate, indeed their challenge was paced with precision. Matters were delayed for a time while the foothold at Cork's end received surgery with a shovel and a tub of dirt, but Derbyshire's challenge remained on slippery ground while Sim-

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Dominic Cork launches a big hit during his 61 not out for Derbyshire at Grace Road yesterday

Allsport

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Proud McIlroy salutes his players

SAMMY McILROY has praised his Macclesfield Town heroes for their performance in shocking their big-time neighbours Stoke City in the Worthington Cup at Moss Rose.

Macclesfield, who achieved promotion to the Second Division at the first time of asking after earning promotion from the GM Vauxhall Conference two seasons ago, beat the Potters club 3-1 in Tuesday night's first leg of their first round tie.

Their hero was the 33-year-old John Askey, a Macclesfield player for 12 years who was born in the Stoke area and is a fan of the Potters' club.

McIlroy, the Macclesfield manager, said: "I'm so proud of

the lads, they produced a great performance and it says a lot to a lot of people about what we are capable of. For John Askey to score two of the goals is very special for him."

Barnet recorded an equally surprising success over Wolverhampton Wanderers, twice winners of the competition, at Underhill.

A Simon Osborn strike 13 minutes from time appeared to have saved the Midlanders after Barnet had taken a second-half lead through Scott McCleish, but Darren Currie grabbed a late winner as the match entered stoppage time.

The Norwich midfielder Neil Adams broke his collarbone during his side's 1-1 draw at

Swansea. "We could have done without losing Neil this early in the season. It's a huge blow," the Norwich manager, Bruce Rioch, said.

The Manchester City manager Joe Royle, has warned his side not to become complacent after they maintained their 100 per cent start to the season against North County in another first-leg game.

City beat the Third Division champions 2-0 with goals in the final 17 minutes from Kakhae Tsikhadze and the substitute Daniel Alstop, a result which followed on from Saturday's 3-0 defeat of Blackpool.

"I was very pleased because I felt we played well and we were always composed," Royle

said. "But we've got to remember it's only two games and we shouldn't get carried away. I won't and I'll make sure they won't."

The West Bromwich Albion manager Denis Smith, feels confident his team can still move into the second round despite Brentford scoring a late goal in their 2-1 defeat at The Hawthorns.

"We gave them a goal - it was silly," Smith said. "I'm sure it will be hard in the second leg but I feel we can still finish the job. We were edgy after the mistakes but I thought we were the better side throughout and could have won the game 3-0."

A happy Peter Reid paid tribute to two-goal Danny

Dichio for his part in Sunderland's 2-0 victory over York City at Bootham Crescent.

Reid said: "He wasn't 100 per cent fit last season. But he got three of four goals for us in pre-season and he has worked hard, looks sharp and I thought he did smashing for us."

The Hartlepoo manager, Mick Tait, has warned his play-

ers against complacency after the 1-0 defeat at Bolton.

"We have just got to make sure we do not freeze at home next week," Tait said after his side had given Bolton an extremely tough battle. "We mustn't think it is all over. It is still going to be very, very hard work."

Ian Rush will still be hopeful that he can top Geoff Hurst's

record number of goals in the competition. He failed to score as his new club, Wrexham, went down 2-0 at home to Halifax, but will attempt to make up for that by hitting the target in the second leg. Rush and Hurst are currently tied on 49 goals.

Another former Liverpool player, Peter Beardsley, has given new club Fulham hope of progress after scoring a goal which helped them come back from behind to beat Cardiff City 2-1.

Birmingham will go into their second leg against Millwall at the New Den feeling fairly secure on the back of a 2-0 victory, while First Division Crewe will know they are in a contest when they welcome

Oldham Athletic for the return leg at Gresley Road.

Crewe lost the first leg 3-2 to the former Premier League outfit who, now in the Second Division, will regard their first leg win at Boundary Park as a prized scalp.

Graham Taylor's Watford will also find the second leg tough after going down 1-0 to Cambridge United, two divisions below them. Taylor's men will have to keep a close watch on Trevor Benjamin, who ratified in a 19th minute winner for Cambridge United.

Bristol City, who went up with Watford last season, should have few problems overcoming Shrewsbury after winning the first leg 4-0.

Villa say £10m for Yorke 'too low'

BY ANDREW MARTIN

ASTON VILLA continued to shrug off the unwelcome advances of Manchester United for Dwight Yorke yesterday after they rejected what they have described as United's second and final fixed offer of £10m for the striker.

The Midlands club have long maintained that they would only be prepared to sell Yorke if United met their asking price of £16m for the Trinidad and Tobago international.

John Gregory, the Villa manager, was optimistic the matter was now over because United had said they were not prepared to increase their offer. "United's fax last night said this would be the last offer and I am delighted," Gregory said.

The United solicitor and director Maurice Watkins admitted they had been rebuffed, but he refused to say if the club would try a third time. "I can confirm that we did make an offer of £10m for Dwight Yorke and that it was rejected," he said. "That is the only comment we are making at this stage."

United also suffered on another front when a tribunal ruled that Huddersfield Town must only pay £275,000 for Ben Thornley, based on appearances. United had wanted £500,000 for the winger.

The West Ham midfielder and England Under-21 international, Frank Lampard, pledged his future to the east Londoners yesterday when he signed a new five-year contract.

The Sheffield Wednesday manager Danny Wilson has denounced speculation linking him with a player-plus-cash deal for Nottingham Forest's Pierre van Hoofdonk as "absolute fabrication".

Forest rate the Dutchman at £3m after he refused to return to the City Ground this summer. Wilson, however, was adamant that he had not offered Andy Booth plus £3m for the striker. "There has been no contact between Sheffield Wednesday and Nottingham Forest. The story is absolute fabrication," he said.

Forest meanwhile, have tabled an undisclosed bid for the Le Havre defender Matthieu Louis-Jean, who has been on trial at the City Ground.

The former West Bromwich Albion defender Shane Nicholson will discover at a hearing at Lancaster Gate today whether he will be allowed to continue his career. The 22-year-old was banned from "all forms of the game" by the Football Association in April after being found guilty of failing to submit a random drugs test in February.

The Chelsea player-manager and former Juventus captain, Gianluca Vialli, has described the Roma coach Zdenek Zeman as "the stinkiest man in soccer" and said he was relishing the prospect of taking the Czech to court over doping allegations. Vialli, responding to comments made by Zeman last week, strenuously denied he had taken drugs while at the Turin club between 1992 and 96.

"It will be a joy to relieve the stinkiest man in soccer of millions of lire and give it to charity," Vialli told *La Stampa*. "That would cause him more pain than anything else."

Vialli stressed that he had never been pressured by Juventus to take illegal drugs.

Zeman, meanwhile, was

being questioned by a prosecu-

tor about his allegations that some players may use perfor-

mance-enhancing substances.

Middlesbrough in better shape for survival war

Without their prima donnas of the past, Bryan Robson's team have a fighting chance. By Simon Turnbull

two main strikers, Alan Armstrong and Marco Branca, both recovering from surgery. He is also likely to be without all three of his central defenders: Gary Pallister; his £1.5m central defensive acquisition from Old Trafford, who has a thigh injury; Gianluca Festa, who has had keyhole surgery on both knees; and Steve Vickery, who is suspended.

With Mark Schwarzer and Paul Gascoigne also on the injured list and rated doubtful, the roll call adds up to a problem Robson could have done without as he prepares for the Premiership relaunch at the Riverside. Middlesbrough can ill afford the handicap of a poor start and, with Paul Merson due to start a three-match suspension after Saturday, the prospect of treading water with a half-strength team is a realistic one for Robson.

Juminho managed to salvage a 1-1 draw. But it was not enough. The Brazilian – unlike Ravanelli and Emerson – was adored by the Middlesbrough fans and collapsed in tears at the final whistle.

It was his final bow on the Premiership stage but Boro are back, and better equipped too, according to the long-serving Fleming. "The team now is a lot more organised," he said. "The personnel two seasons ago was different. It was difficult for that team to gel together, especially with Juminho floating around all over the place."

"The players here now have specific roles. And we have more experience within the team, too, more Premiership experience."

In Pallister, Merson and Andy Townsend, Middlesbrough certainly have the kind of seasoned Premiership campaigners they lacked two seasons ago. They also have an outstanding last line of defence in Schwarzer, who probably would have saved their top-flight status last time had injury not restricted the Australian to seven games.

Boro have a striking asset,

too, in Armstrong, though the assured young centre-forward

is expected to be out of action until December after undergoing an Achilles tendon opera-

tion. They also, of course, have Paul Gascoigne.

At 31, Gascoigne has yet to play in the Premiership. A call-up is threatening to delay his debut beyond Saturday and it remains to be seen, and open to considerable doubt, whether

he can recapture any of the sparkle with which he last illuminated England's top division – as a Tottenham player in 1991.

Reports of recent drinking exploits suggest all remains far from well with the tragic

comic figure of English football.

And this week's portrayal, by Glenn Hoddle, of the tawdry

background to Gascoigne's

World Cup omission can hardly have restored his mental spirits.

Gascoigne's response when



Bryan Robson (left) consoles Juminho after Middlesbrough's relegation two seasons ago

Empics

RINGING THE RIVERSIDE CHANGES

BRYAN ROBSON'S REGULAR PREMIERSHIP TEAM TWO SEASONS AGO

(Based on most appearances in each position)

Gary Walsh (£500,000 from Manchester United)

Neil Cox (£1m from Aston Villa)

Derek Whyte (£900,000 from Celtic)

Steve Vickers (£700,000 from Tranmere Rovers)

Dean Gordon (£900,000 from Crystal Palace)

Robbie Mustoe (£375,000 from Oxford United)

Paul Gascoigne (£3.45m from Rangers)

Andy Townsend (£500,000 from Aston Villa)

Paul Merson (£4.75m from Arsenal)

Fabrizio Ravanelli (£7m from Juventus)

Mikkel Beck (Free from Fortuna Cologne)

Total cost£19,775,000

BRYAN ROBSON'S LIKELY FIRST-CHOICE XI THIS SEASON

Mark Schwarzer (£1.5m from Bradford City)

Curtis Fleming (£500,000 from St Patrick's Athletic)

Gianluca Festa (£2.7m from Internazionale)

Gary Pallister (£2.5m from Manchester United)

Dean Gordon (£900,000 from Crystal Palace)

Robbie Mustoe (£375,000 from Oxford United)

Paul Gascoigne (£3.45m from Rangers)

Andy Townsend (£500,000 from Aston Villa)

Marco Branca (£1m from Internazionale)

Alun Armstrong (£1.6m from Stockport County)

Total cost£19,325,000

THE HEARTS captain, Gary Locke, believes the best is yet to come from his team ahead of today's Cup-Winners' Cup preliminary round, first leg with Lantana Tallinn of Estonia. They have taken time off work and paid a lot of money to be here. To be honest if I wasn't playing for Hearts, I would probably be mingling with the fans at the game."

Hearts' last appearance in Europe was two years ago, when they also appeared in the Cup-Winners' Cup, having lost the Scottish Cup final to the double-winning Rangers team. On that occasion their campaign was short-lived as they went out in the preliminary round to Red Star Belgrade on the away-goals rule.

"It is unbelievable the progress we have made in the last few years," Locke said. "I think this is the best team Hearts have had for a long time. I believe we can go on from here and continue to make progress, as there are a lot of young players in the squad."

"The fans have been brilliant and it is important we put up a good show for those who are in

the squad because of a sudden family illness, so the former Huddersfield player, Lee Makel, is likely to replace him.

Hearts' French striker, Stéphane Adam, is almost certain to play, though, after recovering from a hamstring strain.

Bangor City's players have been preparing hard for their Cup-Winners' Cup tie with the Finnish side, Haka, according to the Welsh club's manager, John King.

Most of last season's Welsh Cup-wining squad have moved on to other clubs but King remains optimistic. "I can't speak too highly of the lads' attitude and commitment. We certainly won't be found wanting in that department," he promised.

Kiryakov, who joined Hamburg this summer from relegated Karlsruhe, was dramatically ordered home from England by the then coach, Ole Romanen, who accused him of undermining morale. Neither Kiryakov, who joins a familiar line-up of Igor Kolyvanov, Vladimir Beschastnykh and Sergei Yurav up front, nor Kharine have played for Russia since.

Kharine, who played no part in Russia's unsuccessful World Cup qualifying bid, takes the place of Benfica's Sergei Ovchinnikov, latterly the first choice under the former coach Boris Ignatyev.

The Celta Vigo midfield pair of Alexander Mostovoi and Valeri Karpin make a comeback after being acrimonious

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Kiryakov, who joined Hamburg this summer from relegated

limit

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday 13 August 1998

SPORT/25

Super League rejects Welsh bids

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY DAVID HADFIELD

TWO DOWN, one to go. Super League has put its expansion plans on hold, rejecting its two Welsh applicants, at least until next year, and giving Gateshead until next Monday to prove that it has a more compelling case.

Cardiff and Swansea, both of whom hoped to be in Super League next year, had their applications "incomplete" by the accountants Deloitte Touche, Super League's managing director, Maurice Lindsay, said after a meeting of the

elite clubs in Huddersfield yesterday.

"They have both asked to be considered for the year 2000 and we will be giving them every encouragement between now and then, because we want them both in Super League," he said.

Super League's chairman, Chris Caisley, said that both Super League and the Rugby League had been disappointed by Deloitte's findings when they were revealed on Monday.

"I don't think we've been too stringent," he said. "If there is any doubt that they can pay for everything they would have to do, is anyone suggesting

that we should take a flyer on them and suffer the consequences later? We must make sure that any club that comes in will be of sufficient strength."

The push for a franchise in Gateshead was given marginally more encouragement. They have four days to come up with further details on contractual matters with the local council and of their own financial underpinning.

"Each bid had something to recommend it," Caisley said. "But it was felt that the people behind the Gateshead bid had a good track record and were of a calibre that made them more likely to succeed."

Kath Hetherington, the co-founder of Sheffield Eagles and a partner in the Gateshead effort, confirmed that they would be carrying on their fight for inclusion.

"I still think and believe we can do it," she said. "I need to clarify precisely what they want from us, but I have always believed that if rugby league won't work in Gateshead it won't work anywhere. We will be working hard between now and Monday, just as we have been ever since we launched this bid."

Gateshead has been used successfully as a venue for a number of matches over the

last few years and for two only modestly supported fixtures during Super League's recent "roadshow" series of games.

The success of the two games in Swansea and Cardiff, which between them attracted more than 13,000 spectators, raised expectancy in South Wales that both would be admitted, especially when Lindsay added his support.

"We were buoyed up by the roadshow and the experience we had there," Caisley said. "We had hoped to admit all three."

That, on paper, is still the ultimate aim, although both Welsh applicants will be dis-

grimed at being kept hanging on in hope for so long.

Peter Tunks, the progressive chief executive of the Cardiff club, disagreed yesterday with Deloitte's claims that financial information had not been supplied. "We made everything available that was asked for," he said, but admitted that, after all the delays in considering the application, his consortium would now be "more comfortable" with a start date in 2000.

Swansea have also told Super League that they are keeping their consortium together and that, by next year, hope to have something solid to show in the shape of a new stadium at

Morfa, which would be shared with Swansea City.

But, for now, the only new frontier is the one in the North-east. Super League clubs agreed yesterday to leave the decision on the last of the three applications to its board of directors, a body which includes Kath Hetherington's husband, the Leeds chief executive, Gary.

Even if Gateshead are allowed into the fold, Super League's progress towards a national profile will look disappointingly slow to Sky Television. The satellite broadcaster's financial hacking will ultimately depend on the competition expanding.



Lindsay: Encouragement

There are also bound to be suspicions of self-interest at work as new clubs would inevitably cost the existing ones money from their Sky allocation. If that was a consideration yesterday, it was a particularly short-sighted one.

US urged to farm out drug testing

DRUGS IN SPORT

THE US Olympic Committee has been urged by an advisory panel to hand over the drug testing of athletes to an outside group.

The 39-member panel concluded that it is a conflict for the USOC to conduct drug testing of the same athletes the organisation supports financially, *The Washington Post* reported on Wednesday. The panel did not lack confidence in the Olympic Committee's ability, but was concerned about credibility. "It's very difficult in the international arena to have a high degree of credibility when you're running your own program," Baaron Pittenger, the chairman of the USOC's anti-doping committee, said.

Dick Schulz, the USOC's executive director, welcomed the recommendation that an independent body administer the drug tests. "It makes a lot of sense, but we have to take a closer look... This is something that would be a major change in our protocol," Schulz said.

Pittenger said the Olympic Committee could become a paying client of an outside-operated drug-control agency, an approach similar to the one taken by the Canadian Olympic Committee to test its athletes.

The advisory panel included doctors, athletes and drug-test administrators and met in late June. It is scheduled to submit a report to the USOC's anti-doping committee in September. Any change in the programme would have to be approved by the USOC's executive committee and board of directors.

Meanwhile, a medical expert testifying in the trial of six former East German sports officials accused of giving 19 female swimmers steroids in the 1970s and 1980s said yesterday the drugs probably had caused bodily damage.

Horst Lubbert, a Berlin endocrinologist and gynaecologist who recently examined 11 of the former swimmers, told a Berlin court it was probable that systematic doping had led to liver problems, extra body hair and deepening of the voice.

He said one patient had developed a liver tumour while being given steroids. The swimmer had also been taking birth control pills at the time, and it was probable that this cocktail of medication was the cause. Lubbert also said that another swimmer had grown a beard, five had experienced temporary voice deepening and that a total of three had developed liver complaints.

"I can only speak of probability," Lubbert told the court when asked if he could be sure that doping had caused health problems in the former swimmers. "I cannot offer a guarantee." The court said the swimmers should not be named to protect their identity.

Norbert Rieckbrock, professor of clinical pharmacology at Berlin's Benjamin Franklin Institute, testified that it was known as early as the late 1970s that anabolic steroids, even in low dosages, could lead to damaging side effects.

Diederl Bimus, 59, is one of the six defendants accused of causing bodily harm to 19 adolescent female swimmers in the former communist country by giving them banned performance-enhancing substances between 1975 and 1989.

Bimus admitted last month that he had given athletes in his care tablets containing anabolic steroids, but said that he believed the dosages – a maximum of 1,000 milligrams per year – had not been dangerous to their health. Bimus, the only accused to have testified so far, said that he had been following the orders of his medical superiors.

The presiding judge, Hans-Jörg Bräutigam, told Bimus at the time that because of his testimony the court could reach a quicker verdict and, if found guilty, he would probably not be fined. If the other five are convicted, they could face several years in jail.

Bräutigam ordered the trial to resume on 24 August, when Bimus will offer a plea and the prosecution will make its closing arguments. He said it was not sure whether the court would issue a verdict then or at a later date.



Milwaukee Brewers' Fernando Vina (left) evades the sliding Richard Hidalgo, of Houston, after tagging him out in the Astrodome during the Astros' 6-5 win. Reuters

McGwire's gain eclipsed by Mets

BASEBALL

MARK McGWIRE, of St Louis, regained sole position in the major league home run standings but the New York Mets took over the lead in the National League wild-card race with an 8-3 win over the Cardinals on Tuesday.

Bobby Jones (8-7) served up McGwire's fourth home run leading off the fourth inning, but by then had fired a four-run inning with a two-run double of his own. He allowed all three runs and eight hits with three walks and three strikeouts over seven innings to win for the first time since 2 July.

"I don't consider myself a flitter," said Jones, though he had seven hits in his last 19 at-bats

entering the game. "I take a lot of pride in my hitting and moving runners over and getting bunts down."

Edgardo Alfonzo tied a career high with four hits and also drove in two runs for the Mets, who won for the fifth time in six games to move a half game ahead of the faltering Cubs in the race for the league's final play-off place.

McGwire had slipped into a tie for the major league lead when Sam Sosa of the Cubs hit two homers on Monday night.

McGwire broke the National League record for homers before 1 September which he and Sosa shared with Hack Wilson, Roger Maris, both all-time.

The Padres defeated the Atlanta

Braves 3-1 in the meeting between the two top teams in the NL.

Hamilton (10-9) improved to 5-0 in his last seven starts, limiting the Braves to six hits and a walk and two strikeouts before turning it over to his bullpen.

Trevor Hoffman struck out two in a perfect ninth for his major league-leading 39th save in 40 chances. San Diego are 15-4 with leading after eight innings since 24 July.

Kent Mercker (8-9) was tagged for five runs and eight hits over five innings, walking one and striking out six.

In San Diego, Joey Hamilton allowed one run over seven-plus innings for a fifth straight win and Quilio Veras and Steve Finley each drove in a run as the Padres defeated the Atlanta

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In Cincinnati, Francisco Cordova fired a six-hitter for his second shut-out of the season as the Pittsburgh Pirates overwhelmed the Reds, 7-0. Cordova (10-10) scattered six hits while walking four and striking out six.

The Pirates had just eight hits

but made the most of their scoring opportunities. They scored a pair of second-inning runs on groundouts and got homers from Jason Kendall and Kevin Young. Kendall hit a two-run shot and added a sacrifice fly and Young contributed his team-leading 22nd homer, a solo shot.

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In San Francisco, Jeff Kent's

second homer of the game snapped a tie and the Giants beat the Chicago Cubs 2-1. Kent's first homer was a two-run blast off Kerry Wood that capped a five-run third inning.

Chicago fought back for a 6-5

lead in the sixth, but Barry Bonds levelled the game a half-inning later with an RBI single before Kent hit another two-run shot, off Terry Adams (7-7).

Bonds also drove in a pair of runs with a two-run triple in the third and has 24 RBI in his last 12 games.

One day after hitting two home runs to draw level with McGwire, Sosa was intentionally walked with his second lead-off in 40 chances. San Diego are 15-4 with leading after eight innings since 24 July.

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SPORT

THE GIRL WONDER OF GOLF P21 • RACING'S DON EARNS RESPECT P22

Hoddle puts profit before honour

IN FUTURE conversations with Glenn Hoddle, members of England's football squad may think it wise not to go beyond the equivalent of name, rank and number.

What else are they to think now that Hoddle has gone public with the unpleasant details of Paul Gascoigne's response to being left out of the recent World Cup finals?

Money has got the reason, a primary reason anyway, why Hoddle waited two months to reveal all in a book worked on with the Football Association's director of public affairs, David Davies, and sold for serialisation to *The Sun* newspaper - although Hoddle's agent, Dennis Roach, insisted last night that Hoddle felt it "absolutely necessary" to

give his side following Gascoigne's description of events at the time.

There was a time when the FA would not have countenanced a book - other than of a purely technical nature - by the England manager/coach and a rule existed to prevent players from commenting on matches for which they were chosen.

Maybe things are worse than they used to be and maybe not. But in approving Hoddle's imprudence the FA have added greatly to the impression that no aspect of English football has gone into sharper decline than the integrity of its administration.

Whenever something comes up that seems to embarrass the FA, it has become their habit, and a successful one, to look the other way and

point with pride to another subject, to some other policy that is doing very well. This time, however, there is no escape route. Quite simply, the FA should not have allowed the publication of a book that calls Hoddle's judgement and probity into question.

A golden rule of football management is, or certainly was, that in matters of discipline and negotiation, conversations with players are best kept private. In breaking this rule, Hoddle, a man who professes to speak openly about his innermost feelings and suggests it as a remedy for others, deserves all the calumny he is likely to get.

A personal point of view, one body is obliged to share, is that the idea of holding back information,



KEN JONES

which would have been better aired by Hoddle at the time of Gascoigne's rejection, is quite reprehensible. It is sure to bring up in the minds of many

people the questions of whether Hoddle will ever again be completely trusted by his players and is fully suited for international responsibility.

Let's admit that the problem of limiting commercial exploitation in football has become maddeningly complex, and difficult to simplify. In Hoddle's case it was one of self-discipline, that of putting national esteem before profit. Graham Taylor's naive willingness to take part in a television documentary based on England's unsuccessful attempt to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals served to make him further a subject of public ridicule.

Chances are many football supporters merely glanced at the headlines about Hoddle, asked themselves what was so unusual

about that, and went on to read about preparations for the new season. This merely indicates loose thinking.

The objections to Hoddle's book are unanswerable. In the first place, if memory can be relied upon, no England manager has published details of team and administrative affairs while in office. Even in retirement Alf Ramsey refused to throw light on the conspiracy behind his downfall.

In the second place, Hoddle has unquestionably betrayed confidences, making it difficult for him to impose a code of prohibition with regard to speaking ill of one another. It is a step away from candour to hypocrisy. Gascoigne's indiscretions and incessantly childish behaviour was tolerated by Hoddle in the hope that England's

most naturally gifted footballer would come to his senses in time for the World Cup finals. It was less a feeling for his fellow man than pragmatism.

By all accounts, Hoddle was evasive when questions about Gascoigne's rejection were put to him at England's training camp in La Manga. Speaking on radio, Hoddle's assistant and friend, John Gorham, emphasised that it was entirely between the coach and the player.

If, as it appears to be, that Hoddle has, for a price, betrayed Gascoigne, then it requires an eloquent advocate, indeed, to make a convincing defence for him. From here, no defence at all is discernible.

Leading article, Review, page 3
Football, page 21

Gascoigne claim prompted reply

BY DERRICK WHYTE

GLENN HODDLE last night responded to criticism over his decision to reveal details of his behind-closed-doors meeting with Paul Gascoigne that ended with the midfield man being left out of England's World Cup squad.

The England coach has been under fire after confidential details of the meeting were disclosed in Hoddle's book, which is being serialised in *The Sun* this week.

The Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson, had criticised Hoddle and claimed it "pathetic the way everyone is jumping on the Gazza bandwagon."

But a statement issued last night by Hoddle's agent, Dennis Roach, said: "Whilst there is some degree in understanding the concerns of the Middlesbrough manager, I felt it necessary to respectfully point out the following facts on behalf of the England manager:

"It is a fact that on Monday, June 1, Glenn Hoddle held a press conference in Spain at which he gave a strictly limited version of what had been said between him and Paul Gascoigne at the meeting at which Paul Gascoigne had been told he would not be going to France for the World Cup. That limited version was in defence of the player and would have remained so.

"However, on June 2, three pages appeared in a national newspaper giving explicit details of Paul Gascoigne's version of what had happened at that meeting. As a result of that article, Mr Hoddle decided it was absolutely necessary to insert in his book the facts of what actually had taken place.

"It would have been impossible to have avoided the issue in any case in a book about the World Cup. But the result of the full version was caused by the article provided by Paul Gascoigne."

Hoddle claimed in the newspaper serialisation that Gascoigne acted like "a man possessed" when he was told he had been axed from the World Cup squad, repeatedly swearing, kicking over a chair and smashing a lamp in the Spanish hotel where the England squad were staying prior to France '98.

The England coach thought the Middlesbrough midfielder was drunk and realised he would be unable to communicate with his players.

"I thought about trying to talk to him but knew I couldn't, not while he was in this state. He would never take it in," he was quoted as saying in *The Sun*.

"He had snapped. He was ranting, swearing and slurring his words. He was acting like a man possessed. He seemed to be dealing with it

quite well... then he stopped, turned and flew into a rage, kicking a nearby chair. It was a full-blooded volley and I was concerned because he had bare feet. The kick was so hard I thought he must have broken his foot."

"He was a different person now. He had snapped. I stood there and he turned as if to go again then came back with a barrage of abuse."

Hoddle's attack on Gascoigne drew a swift response from Robson.

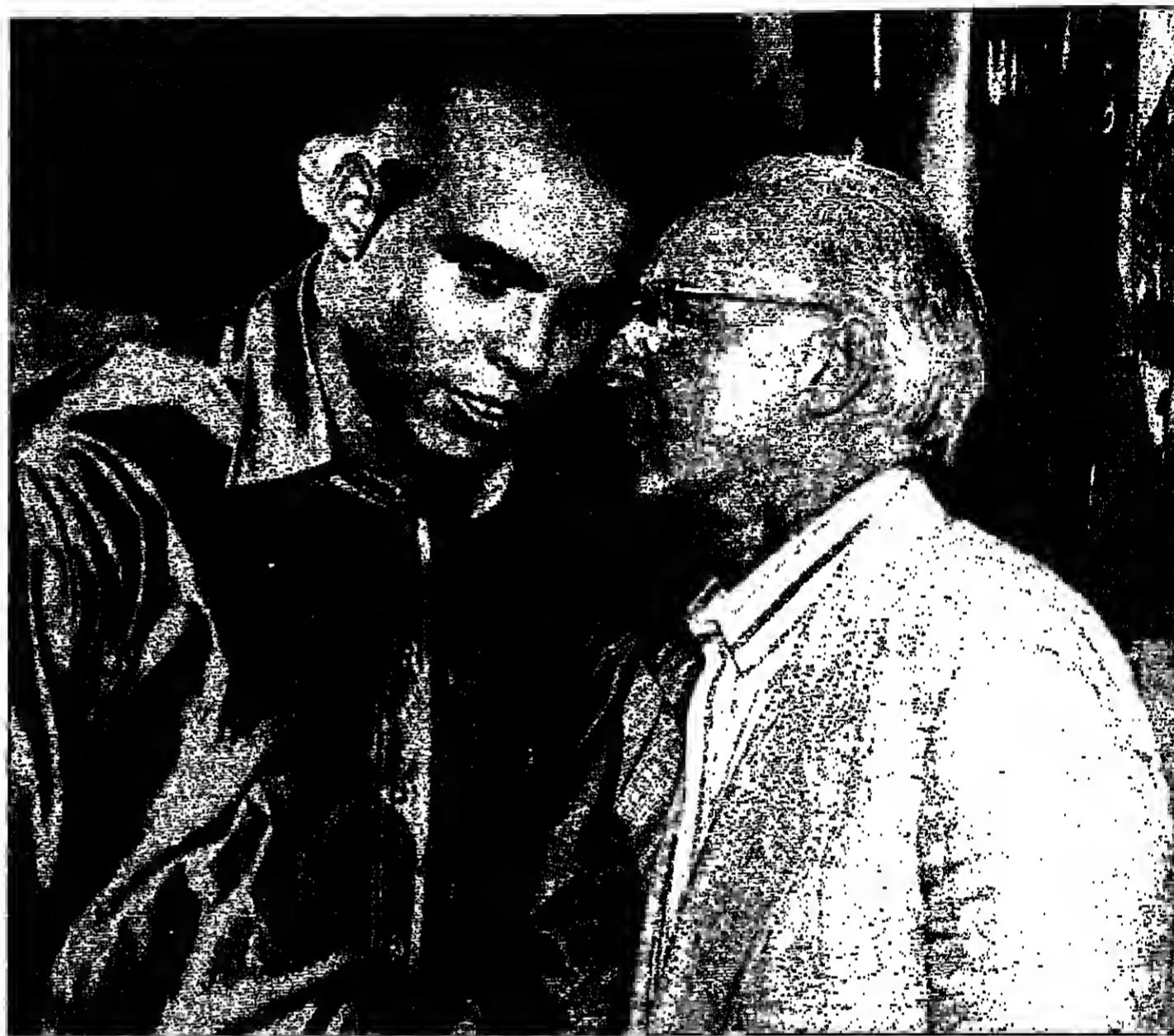
He said: "There are too many people living off the back of Gazza's reputation. People are selling stories right, left and centre. They know that Gazza is high profile and see it as a way of making money."

"I don't want to get involved in some slanging match with Hoddle because Gazza will let his football do the talking."

Gascoigne's advisor, Mel Stein, said last night: "All we have to say is what we said yesterday. We are disappointed and we are still disappointed."

Hoddle also attacked the Blackburn striker Chris Sutton and other players who choose not to play for England B by claiming they "don't deserve to wear the England shirt".

"I don't think anybody should turn down the chance of playing for their country at whatever level. If they do, they don't deserve to wear the England shirt," he said in his autobiography.



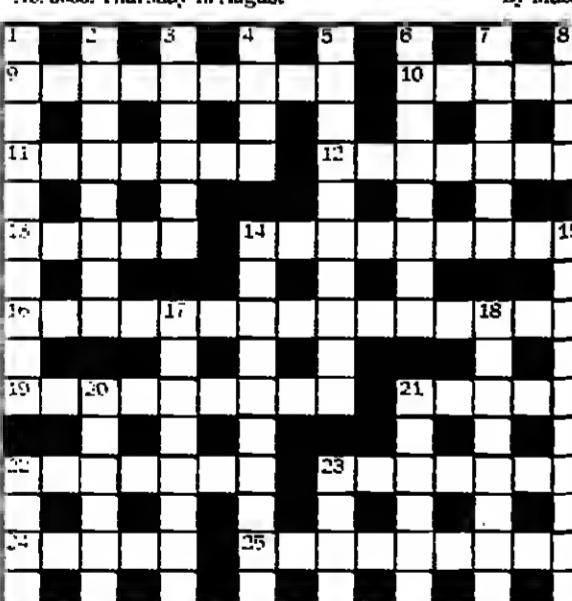
The former Brazil manager Mario Zagallo (right) talks to Ronaldo at the opening of the striker's bar in Rio de Janeiro. Reuters

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3688, Thursday 13 August

By Mass

Wednesday's solution



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ACROSS

- 9 Burst ulcer gets one in race indisposed (9)
- 10 Primed to take final in university (5)
- 11 Home needs a subsidy, backing from state (7)
- 12 Spout empty words? They say a fool will (7)
- 13 End up in check (5)
- 14 Animal in enclosure turned rough, it's said (4-5)
- 16 He certainly gets around (8,7)
- 19 Electrical device I found in reportedly sabotaged launch (9)
- 21 Turn off from centre, bell-mell (5)
- 22 Type involved in a dramatic cover-up? (7)
- 23 He makes smooth country sounds with hint of rock (7)
- 24 Birds in thousands ultimately migrate (5)
- 25 Part of building material, fifth of cement in bag (9)
- 27 DOWN
- 1 Load with president, after the Fall, in retreat? (5,3)
- 2 Plants delighted one, yielding oil (8)
- 3 Bow with difficulty (6)
- 4 Fatuous restriction on article (4)
- 5 It's useful in home, applying pastel red round ceiling of diner? (10)
- 6 Articles, crushed by brother, break (8)
- 7 Import business (6)
- 8 We can hear a branch of the river (4)
- 14 Toothpaste makes little impression if food follows (10)
- 15 To be bracing, Alex, the air must be fresh (10)
- 17 Proved attractive round Eastern island, and restful (8)
- 18 I notice round chunk of mint humbug (8)
- 20 Indulge company's clot (6)
- 21 Beast needs drink, rear ing on right (6)
- 22 Gulls identified from vessels (4)
- 23 Willing to mount English publication (4)

Durie injury ruins night for Wallace

BY SIMON BUCKLAND

ROD WALLACE yesterday admitted a serious injury to fellow striker Gordon Durie had taken the shine off a polished UEFA Cup win over PAOK Salonika on Tuesday night.

Durie was carried off with a suspected broken ankle after just four minutes following a crude challenge from Traianos Macheridis.

Durie will know by the end of this week whether his damaged ankle is broken. Swelling around the ankle means that tests made yesterday were inconclusive regarding the full extent of the problem which could yet force him out for more than two months.

A Rangers spokesman said yesterday: "He has been to see a specialist and his left ankle is in plaster. On Friday Gordon will return for further tests when it will be established whether there is a break, which is not known yet."

The Greeks' debutant mid-fielder Mahairidis grounded Durie with a late challenge by the touchline that earned the visiting player the first of two swift bookings.

Durie was replaced by the Argentinian striker Gabriel Amato after just six minutes of the game. Two minutes later Mahairidis joined him on the sidelines after receiving a second yellow card, this time for dissent. Rangers' manager Dick Advocaat described the tackle a "bad one" and fears that Durie will "be out for a long time".

Advocaat pronounced himself well satisfied with the win. He added: "It will be a hot evening in a fortnight's time,

Rangers, that would also have a negative impact for his country as Scotland start their Euro 2000 campaign. Durie now looks a major doubt for the opening qualifier in Lithuania on Saturday, September 5.

Rangers took time to adapt to the advantage of the extra man, but second-half goals from Andrei Kanchelskis and Wallace made for a stylish triumph.

It was a first goal in European competition for former Leeds striker Wallace, but he conceded that Durie's misfortune tempered the joy at his 20-yard curled effort. He said: "I am happy to take the responsibility up front, but it is sad for Gordon what has happened."

"We are all professionals and will get on with it. I didn't see what happened but I know it was a bad tackle because some of the boys were saying so at half-time. All the lads are upset about Gordon, especially if it does prove to be a broken ankle, but we have to be professional and carry on."

That means taking the two-goal advantage to PAOK's hostile home, the Toumbas Stadium, but Wallace is optimistic Rangers will travel with confidence. He added: "I am more than happy with my goal and I feel we have a good cushion. Hopefully we can go over there and get a result. We had a couple of chances to have scored more than two."

Advocaat pronounced himself well satisfied with the win. He added: "It will be a hot evening in a fortnight's time, As well as a blow to

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Mink set free

Sir: The media coverage of the release of mink from a Hampshire fur farm by animal liberationists is among the most biased and sensationalist seen for a long time. If we believed all we read we should declare a state of national emergency and nuke the nasty mink into oblivion. Some reports have claimed in the same article that the mink will eat all the wildlife yet starve to death!

The fact is that the mink have been given their only chance of freedom. Some will be killed after release, others will survive to swim in rivers, walk miles and have control over their own lives. The alternative is another few months in a bare wire cage going mad before being gassed and turned into a fur coat.

Given the opportunity, the mink will separate quickly and establish their own territories, and long-term will have no more drastic effect on other wild life than relatives such as stoats and weasels. The real issue is why the Government has consistently failed to honour its pre-election pledge to ban fur farming.

CRAIG ARMSTRONG
Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade
Manchester

Sir: I note claims made by campaigners for "animal rights" that mink are really not so bad.

When I was a boy, one could walk along the banks of the river Wye and see dozens of moorhens within the space of a mile. A few years ago it was reported that there were no moorhens on the Wye from Rhayader to Chepstow, because of killing by mink. Now we have a few moorhens back because of a concerted effort to kill the mink.

JAMES GIBSON-WATT
Hay-on-Wye, Powys

Sir: The defiantly damaging act of releasing mink into an environment where they wreak havoc is not the first incident of this type. The reasoning of those responsible seems to be that "oppressed" animals (mink) have rights prior to those of wild animals, justifying the jeopardy of a delicate ecosystem. No matter that the act of liberation becomes an instant act of oppression to all those rare animal species, such as otters, water voles and barn owls, already at risk.

The activists concerned must have known the consequences, but sentimentality, self-obsession and a tunnel vision which concentrates on the actions of people as oppressors convinced them to press ahead anyway. This is not animal liberation; rather some very human political values have been projected on to a vulnerable animal population.

STEVEN RHODES
London SW8

Sir: Kathy Marks report, 11 August, would seem to be mistaken when she writes "Mink - that single syllable is enough to strike fear into the hearts of all small mammals". I have tried the word on two cats and a dog and been met in each case by complete indifference.

Lieutenant-Colonel CGS HUGHES
Commanding 1 Staffords
Belfast

Women's work

Sir: What's got in to David Aaronovitch ("Modern women may decide their place is at home with the children", 11 August)? The Foreign Office's proposals for helping more women to become ambassadors sound eminently sensible to me.

Twenty years ago at school it was suggested to me that I try for the diplomatic service. I turned it down because, as attractive as the job was, I felt it meant opting for the single life. I, like my male peers, wanted it all - career, partner and family. I found a career that at least held out some hope of that. I am now in a job-share which has been a godsend while my children are small.

What women want is not



Charlton Athletic FC - 'corporate entertaining in style'

Brian Harris

permission to stay at home with their children but, like many men, a balance between work and home. We need more reasonable working practices which accommodate mothers and fathers and thus go some way to placing a value on children and child-rearing which is sorely lacking at present in the workplace. The solution is as simple, and complex, as that.

Dr HEATHER INGMAN
Beverley, East Yorkshire

Sir: I applaud David Aaronovitch's sentiments about working mothers. I suspect that he will be vilified.

Women are not allowed to say that they would rather raise their own children, at least until school age, rather than pay someone else to raise them. Women have to want to have a career and children. Many of us, avowed feminists like myself and others, do not want to "have it all"; we recognise that it is not possible. We cannot bring up our children satisfactorily and work full-time. It may not harm our children to be brought up by others - studies have been produced suggesting both that it does and that it doesn't - but we cannot say that we are juggling family and work when we are doing the work and someone else is bringing up our family.

It will be said that this is yet another excuse to discriminate against women in the workplace. No one should be discriminated against in the workplace. Family-friendly policies should apply to all workers in all workplaces. Fathers should be able to spend more time with their children than many are able to do at present, without being penalised or stigmatised.

Society devalues the care of children. Stay at home and raise your own children, and you become a social nonentity. In the past, at least the Government would have applauded you. New Labour doesn't think that anyone

should stay at home with their children unless they have a partner to support them. They want single mothers to work at all costs. Women who care for children professionally are underpaid and undervalued. When does a week go past without every newspaper in the land ballyhooing child-minders, nannies, teachers?

It is time that feminist stay-at-home mothers stood up and were counted.

JUDY EDMONDS
Tetbury, Gloucestershire

Gays in the Bible...

Sir: I welcome David Pocock's friendly letter (10 August) about those two words in 1 Corinthians 6:3. They have been much abused by the translators.

The word *οἰνοκοίτες* has no known meaning at all. It is one of those bubble-words that bedevil dictionary-makers: a rare word with no track-record, no context, and no self-evident meaning. Used nowhere else in the Bible, nor in earlier literature, it loops up twice in Paul's letters: once here, and once in another string of nouns at 1 Timothy 1:10. Paul gives us no

clue about what it meant to him. None of his contemporaries appears to have used it.

When we do at last find the word used in a clear context, a century or more after Paul's death, it is used to denounce women who try to avoid having babies.

The other word, *μαλάκοις*, has in fact no sexual connotations of any kind. It simply means "weak". It can apply either to someone's psychology ("self-indulgent"), and hence "over-dressed", as at Matthew 11:8 and Luke 7:25) or to their physiology ("in poor health", as at Matthew 4:23). Some modern translators seem to think that "self-indulgent", "weak" and "over-dressed" can all be added together into "mincing queer", but this anachronistic stereotype owes nothing to Paul's culture. I suspect these translators are men who have strange dreams about Liberace. Others deal with the word more faithfully. The Jerusalem Bible translators (1968) followed the flow and mistranslated it as "catamites", but their revisers stood up and corrected this to "the self-indulgent" (New Jerusalem Bible, 1985). All credit to them.

It has been my privilege, over the last few years, to edit for publication some newly discovered manuscripts believed to be from the pen of Dr Watson. The fourth of these will be published by Constable in November as *Sherlock Holmes and the Royal*

Paul's Greek had an abundance of common words that referred plainly to male same-gender sexual activity: *κινδύνεια, ορνητικό, παιδοφθορία, παιδεραστία, ανδροβοτία*. Paul used none of them: not one. It is to fill this perceived gap that the homophobes have hijacked *μαλάκοις* and *οἰνοκοίτες* into the service of their late-mediaeval, unscriptural bigotry.

Dr MICHAEL HALLS
Christina, Devon

...and in Baker St?

Sir: Your report "The strange case of the missing gay detectives" (3 August) raises, once more, the proposition that Sherlock Holmes and John Watson were homosexual. Professor Stephen Knight seems to believe that they were though there is no real evidence for that belief.

It has been my privilege, over the last few years, to edit for publication some newly discovered manuscripts believed to be from the pen of Dr Watson. The fourth of these will be published by Constable in November as *Sherlock Holmes and the Royal*

Flush. While these documents throw no more light on the pair's sexual orientation than the original stories, it is possible to deduce from these original tales that both Holmes and Watson were susceptible to women.

Watson, we know, married Mary Morstan, heroine of *The Sign of Four*; and some biographers believe that he married twice more. Holmes admired intellect in a woman (witness his admiration for Irene Adler in *A Scandal in Bohemia*) and admitted to Watson that he wished he possessed female intuition: "The impression of a woman may be more valuable than the conclusion of an analytical reasoner." On the other hand he regarded women as potentially disruptive of his fierce intellectual discipline, an attitude which suggests that he too was very susceptible to them.

Their attitude to women does not, of course, establish that they were not homosexual. Perhaps they were bisexual and, like the famous dog in *Silver Blaze*, did nothing in the night time.

In the end, one can only say that Professor Knight may be right in his inference that they were homosexual, but, if they were, they would certainly have rejected the adjective "gay". In their day it still carried its ancient slang meaning of "randy, promiscuous or sexually available". As a verb it was a synonym for "copulate", from which usage arose quaint expressions like "gaying pole", "gaying stick" and "gaying pinle" for the male member. The prostitute's invitation was, "Are you gay?" — a phrase whose survival among American homosexuals triggered the sloppy modern use of the term.

Holmes and Watson were certainly not "gay". BARRIE ROBERTS
Walsall, West Midlands

Cows hit back

Sir: Daisy is not happy. In fact she is positively upset. Actually her name is Pet. Why should she be feeling thus? Because I do not look after her properly? Because she does not agree with the finer points of the Common Agricultural Policy? No, because she has to put up with articles like the one by James Erlichman ("Our unhealthy love of milk", 12 August).

Pet is 15 years old. She has produced 14 calves and 100,000 litres of milk. And her milk is healthy, wholesome and nutritious. She knows it is, because every tankful is sampled for cleanliness and antibiotic residues. And herudder does not drag in the mud.

Yes, she would admit to carrying around bacteria. But then so does Mr Erlichman. Millions of the little blighters. But I will resist the temptation to write a sensationalist article about his bacteria, or the devastating effect that articles such as this could bring upon an already hard-pressed industry.

Pet is due to have her 15th calf in February 1999. I am sure she would be delighted if Mr Erlichman would like to come down to observe the happy event.

BRIAN R MOORE
Exeter

Sir: With the latest food scare reports of bacteria discovered in, for example, pasteurised milk, the consumer needs some way of assessing the risk. I suggest that all such reports should be accompanied by comparable results obtained from the researchers' own kitchens.

ANDREW SPACKMAN
Dover, Northamptonshire

NHS merit awards

Sir: What can you mean by suggesting that the abolition of consultants' automatic merit awards should create the scope to offer perhaps larger incentives to those who are truly outstanding" (leading article, 11 August)? It does so would introduce the scale of inequities of the boardroom and barristers' chambers, and would remove the incentives which a modest B or C award can offer to a skilled, hard-working consultant, who must otherwise spend more time in private practice.

And where on earth do you get the concept of "automatic" awards? In my experience recommendations from a hospital or other organisation were only made after much, often organised, discussion and inquiry. It is very difficult to assess clinical merit. One can get useful opinions from fellow consultants, others from the same specialty, from nurses, junior doctors, students and of course patients. But often it is the long-term benefit to patients (after several years perhaps) which is most relevant.

There is a heavy responsibility on those who make recommendations to the awards committee to do so carefully and impartially. There will be failures and it is never going to be easy but it will best be done on a wide a basis of clinical knowledge as possible.

Professor HUMPHREY KAY
Penzance,
Cornwall

Right and left

Sir: Am I left-handed or right-handed? After reading Charlotte Packer's interesting report ("It's the right way to handle the left", 8 August) I am no longer sure.

I used to consider myself left-handed because I write with my left hand, something I certainly cannot do with my right. Yet I would be quite unable to use any of the ingenious knives, peelers, rulers, specially designed for left-handers, she describes. Writing is the only thing I can do with my left hand. In every other respect I am completely right-sided. Parents beware - perhaps the issue of left- or right-handedness is not simply one of either/or.

Dr MARK LARRAD
Rochdale,
Lancashire

Is 9½ weeks long enough to learn all about bondage?

LIKE MANY people, I have mixed feelings about bondage. Of course, it's fashionable. In certain circles, I accept, you take a pair of handcuffs with you on a date as matter of course. It's regarded as perniciously unworthy not at some point to have been led around in a dog-collar or wrapped up in cling film or stood in a corner, roundly insulted and made to cry. But having been thrashed black and blue only once, and then when I was seven, I feel somewhat out of my depth.

So it was tremendously exciting to read in the latest edition of *The Spectator* that Bondage for Beginners lessons are now available in certain parts of London, along with cruising workshops and seminars on how best to run an orgy. The writer Leo McKinstry had been appalled to discover that Lon-

don health authorities were using taxpayers' money to fund organisations with names like "Rubber-stuffers" and "Big Up".

Trilling with moral outrage, and with many an obligatory reference to political correctness, McKinstry attended a Bondage for Beginners meeting in Earls Court. There he was brought up to speed on simple restraining techniques, knot-tying and whip selection, given a mobile S&M dungeon (clothes-pegs, candles, sandpaper - the usual stuff) and told to go away and practise on his own. He was so scandalised by all this that he had to attend a cruising workshop in Soho to confirm just how depraved it all was.

Naturally the Daily Mail gave the story front-page headline treatment, recounting its details with eager, wet-lipped disapproval

and doubtless causing shudders of appalled delight in lounge sitting-rooms across the home counties.

But out here among the grown-ups, the question must surely be: why has this essential service so far been restricted to the gay community? Have not the rest of us the right to be shown the ropes by qualified operatives? Since the groundbreaking film *9½ Weeks*, this kind of behaviour has increasingly been presented as an entirely normal part of sophisticated relationships. It has even reached agreeable British sitcoms. Who could forget the moment in an early episode of *Game On* when Samantha Janus, handcuffed to a bed after some zany misunderstanding, yelped with excitement at the idea?

The problem here is that zany misunderstandings rarely occur

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The problem here is that zany misunderstandings rarely occur

TERENCE BLACKER

Suddenly the reason for the crisis in modern sexual relations becomes clear...

in real life; that this whole area of mastery and submission raises questions of social behaviour rarely

covered by the etiquette books.

How, for example, do you get to first base, bondage-wise? Indeed, what is first base? The problem was brought into focus not so long ago by an article in *The New Yorker*. A distinguished, somewhat literary female writer wrote of her particular enthusiasm for practices some way beyond the scope of Bondage for Beginners classes. The most important part of a new relationship, she revealed, was that its move beyond the conventional should always be a surprise. Shifty negotiation, a delicate, liberal-minded discussion of the acceptable parameters of pain, completely destroyed the point of it all.

Suddenly the reason for the crisis in modern sexual relations becomes clear. No wonder young men are so edgy and afraid. Who

can blame them for preferring to stay at home and express their confusion and insecurity in gentle, tearful novels rather than risk the humiliation of the dating game?

And no wonder, come to think of it, that alcoholism is said to be spreading like a forest fire through the ranks of young women. With their impossible demands for both sensitivity and mastery, they increasingly find themselves sitting in bars, angry, unloved and alone.

Because how exactly does a man know? A sudden impulsive move into Hitler mode, a swift, wordless journey back to a well-appointed Manhattan dungeon, may work with one distinguished, somewhat literary writer for *The New Yorker*; with another, it will possibly land you in court with a massive lawsuit for emotional trau-

ma and aggravated assault with a clothes-peg.

Hence the need for Bondage for Beginners workshops. When he returns from holiday, our caring Health Minister Frank Dohson should announce a government task force to look into this increasingly fraught area of gender relations. To those who complain of the cost, he should point out the vast benefit to manufacturers - factories that until recently were producing manacles for Third World governments will find that, with minor modifications, their products can be sold on every high street.

Pleasures enjoyed for so long by the cultural elite from Swinburne to Francis Bacon, will become the people's pastime. Here at last will be an area in which Britain can face the opposition.

THE INDEPENDENT

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A silly season squabble over fat cats' pay

THE APPEAL by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Stephen Byers, for restraint on the part of the so-called boardroom fat cats is as futile as it is Silly-Season-predictable. The Government is, it seems, upset about how quickly boardroom pay has been rising. But then they always get upset about fat cats when there is a need to deflect attention away from more substantial issues or when, as now, there is a dearth of political news to keep the spin doctors busy. Should we take any notice?

There are a couple of reasons why we should take Mr Byers' remarks slightly seriously. First is his status; this is the apogee of New Labour speaking, a man who is the nearest thing New Labour has to a Taliban chieftain with his dedication to shaming the true path of the Third Way. So what he says matters; what he says also betrays some confusion about economics.

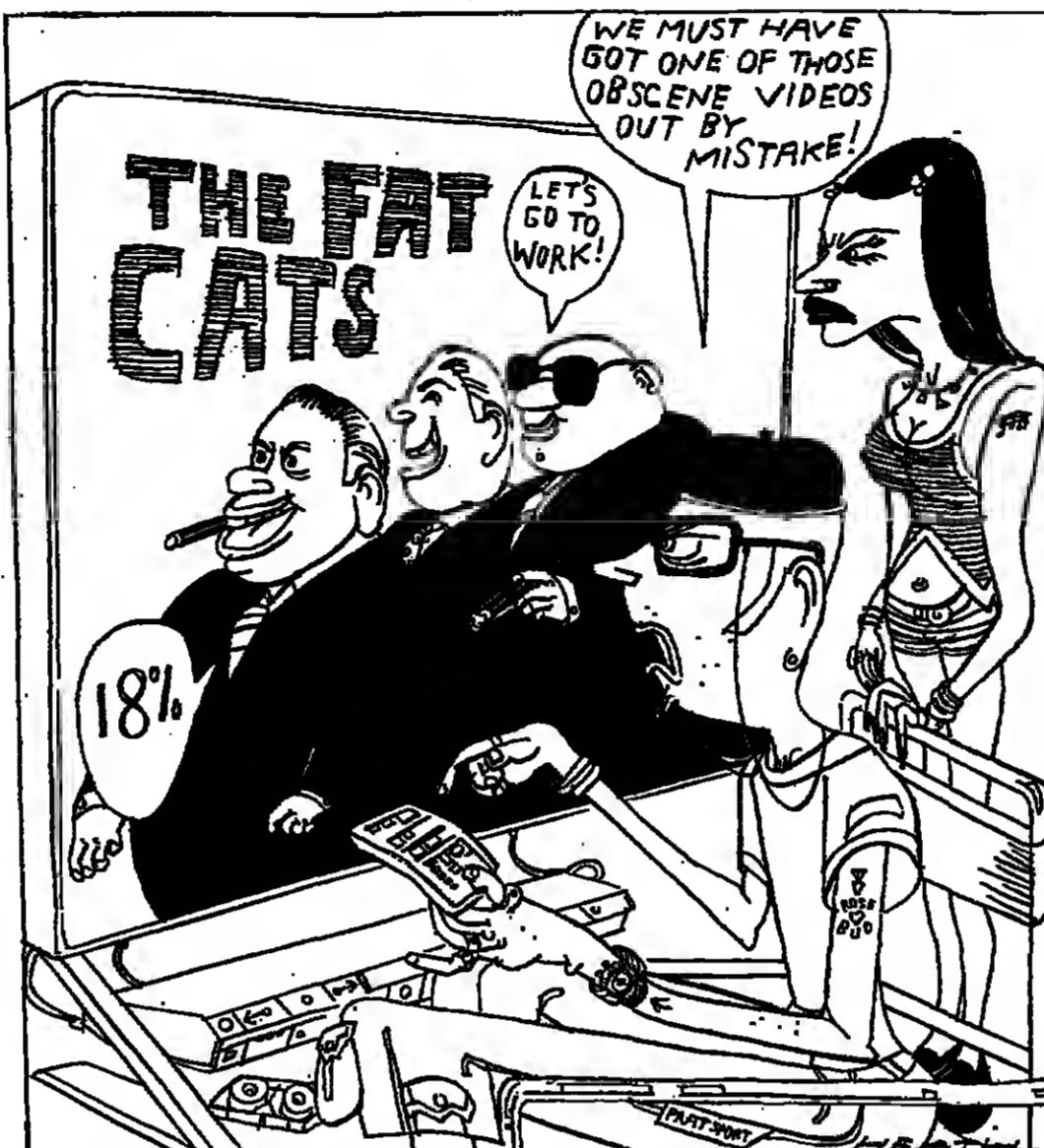
One essential element in the theology of the Third Way, and one of New Labour's most fervent ambitions, is to replace the Conservatives as the "party of business". Hence, the appointment of the likes of Lord Simon (of BP), Lord Sainsbury and Gus Macdonald to ministerial jobs. However their influence in terms of helping their new colleagues understand how business works is obviously still to be felt.

There is no necessary reason why boardroom pay should move in line with other pay, any more than a plumber's wages should move in line with those of a taxi driver. In a dynamic market economy, of the kind that New Labour is supposed to be comfortable with, you can expect large divergences in income and the rate of change in people's income.

While some of the talk about comparing executives with star footballers or entertainers is overdone, it is still true that there is a relatively small pool of talent in this field, and that the best can easily command high rewards. It is surprising that even Mr Byers still seems unable to get the hang of the idea of a market for the job.

The second reason we have to take Mr Byers seriously is that he is making some threatening noises. He says that unless there is what he calls "a more positive approach" by all companies, shareholders should be given more power over directors' pay and, in the case of utilities, he wants to see a "clear link" to be established between boardroom pay and "service standards".

Of course company law should be framed in a way that balances the interests of those who own companies and



those who run them. But the fundamental point remains: that shareholders – and we are mostly talking here about the large ones – do have ways of making their views known to boards, and there are procedures to bring directors to account and, if needs be, to sack them. It may well be that the balance is not quite right in this respect. But this is a matter of good corporate governance which should be tackled irrespective of the current state of directors' pay.

Mr Byers' point about the utilities is more firmly based. But, when he was asked on the BBC's *Today* programme about which utilities he had in mind, Mr Byers conceded that firms such as BT were now in a fiercely

competitive market, and was only really willing to round up the water industry's boys for a whipping. He may be right about them, but it is a fairly narrow and industry-specific point, and not an economic policy.

The public have no great affection for the fat cats, and may or may not use the pay rises that they think bosses are getting to justify increases for themselves. They may be unwise to do so and, as a politician of the bygone era of pay policy once put it, one man's inflationary pay rise is another man's lost job. But exhortation to restraint by government is unlikely to be heeded. Mr Byers, we suspect, is just the latest in a long line of politicians who have overestimated our facility for listening.

How to recruit more nurses

YOUNG BRITISH people are staying away from nursing in droves. Moreover, half the people in the profession are over 40, storing up problems for the future as well as making it hard to see how the Health Secretary, Frank Dobson, will be able to keep his promise of 15,000 extra nurses over the next three years.

Pay is certainly important. But it has never been the reason why people join the profession. Among the explanations of why young women – and nursing is 93 per cent women – are no longer so interested is the explosion in the choices that they now have (the same also applies to teaching). The huge increase in university places has meant that the traditional route from A-levels straight to nursing college is no longer a prestige option to a generation that often appears to feel that service of any kind diminishes the self.

One solution would be to recruit a larger proportion of men (of any age). This would make sense for several reasons.

First, it would far harder to ghettoise the profession in terms of pay. The recent statistics about men being promoted before women in nursing despite their tiny numbers is proof that all the old gender/pay dynamics still exist. The health secretary's promise that he will find ways of improving nurses' pay in the coming months will test out whether the nursing profession is also subject to the law of supply and demand.

Male unemployment is once again on the rise, offering more potential candidates to compensate for the women who have gone elsewhere. Also the work performed by nurses is becoming more technical. This should make the job more attractive for prestige reasons.

There has never been an NHS drive specifically to recruit men. Perhaps now is the time to have one.

Conduct unbecoming

GLENN HODDLE had a poor World Cup. His decisions about who should play were shaky and his use of a faith healer made him look ridiculous. Now he's written a book about his exploits in France, which goes into graphic detail of confidential conversations and events that took place with members of his team. This is no way for any boss to treat his team, let alone an England coach. Mr Hoddle has brought the game into disrepute and it is difficult to see how any player can have trust in him again. Perhaps the time has come for him to take up one of those lucrative offers he has bragged about, preferably with a foreign club.

Governments have little power these days – learn to live with it

WE ARE, I fear, catching a glimpse of the future. When you see reports in the papers that "business leaders pleaded with Tony Blair to rescue the economy", you know something is up.

Here in Britain the focus of concern has been interest rates and the strong pound. But there is a bigger game unfolding. Anyone who has read a newspaper in the last month will have taken on board the fact that the world's second largest economy, Japan, has gone into a slump, and the East Asian economic crisis is now starting to have an impact on the US economy and on the world's financial markets. Securities markets around the world are not running scared because of the policies of the Bank of England's monetary committee; they have taken on board the possibility (and for the moment it is no more than that) that the East Asian crisis could tip the world into a post-millennial recession.

What that mission to Mr Blair shows, though, is not so much that parts of the business community are still looking to politicians to solve economic problems. The glimpse of the future that we are catching is not so much the distant thunder of the next downswing, but rather a new tension between governments and the people who elect them.

In any democracy governments have to present themselves as having some responsibility for the fruits of economic prosperity. They say that they have "created" jobs, "given" people better health care, or "provided" better schools. So it is natural when businesses are finding things tough that they should go to the Gov-

ernment and ask it to rescue the economy. But this attitude reflects relationships which, if they ever existed, certainly do not exist now.

Ask the practical question: what do these pleading business leaders want the Government to do? Take back control of interest rates from the Bank of England? If it did that there might be some decline in short-term rates and there would certainly be a fall in sterling. But there would also be a rise in long-term rates, a sharp fall in share prices, rising inflation, a balance of payments crisis and – in a couple of years – new austerity measures including higher interest rates, tax increases and so on.

Maybe the business leaders want some form of subsidy. Well, governments can provide those and frequently do. But all that is happening there is that they are taking away money from one group of people in taxation and giving it to another in the subsidies, after deducting their own administrative costs for organising the redistribution. The first group will have less money to spend on the goods and services they want to buy, and the businesses getting the subsidies will go on producing goods and services that people do not want: at the price at which they can be produced. Society as a whole will be poorer as a result.

Take even health care, or education: the Government is not magically "giving" people anything. It is taking money in taxation, using this to manufacture and distribute the services. Of course we want and need these things, and of course society as a whole gains from good public services. But everything has to be paid for somehow: governments have no money of their own.

HAMISH MCRAE
Reasonable competence is a hard thing for governments to sell if that is all that can be offered in difficult times

We all know this. So why does the rhetoric persist? I can understand its carrying on in the debate over public services because there is a genuine sense in which governments have control over these. They can be either efficient or inefficient in the way they run the show, taking credit for the former and carrying the can for the latter. But when you come to talking about control over the economy as a whole, it is surely a mug's game for any government to pretend it can do more than nudge things at the margin.

Really bad economic management can certainly make it very difficult for an economy to prosper. Britain experienced that in the Seventies and Japan is experiencing it at the moment. But I do not think it is reasonable to expect our present government to be really bad at economic management. It will make some modest errors – it may have made a mod-

est error in its last spending plans, which if they are to be paid for without higher taxation require steady growth through to the early part of the next century. As each day passes that growth appears less likely: the new Bank of England economic forecasts show awareness of the possibility of a coming recession, though those canny central bankers merely note this as an outside possibility rather than an odds-on bet. But all governments make modest errors in economic management. I see no reason to think that ours will be less competent than those of most other developed nations.

The trouble will be that reasonable competence is a hard thing for governments to sell, if that is all that can be offered in the face of a much more difficult global economic environment. It requires politicians to present themselves in a different way: instead of being able to solve voters' problems, a nice, simple on-line message, they have to try to convey the more subtle notion that they can create an environment in which it will be easier for those voters to solve their own problems.

This government is brilliant at presentation and has as good a hope as any at being able to re-educate the electorate as to the limits of its power – indeed the power of any national government in a global market economy. Given a following wind it could probably sell this in a credible way.

Trouble is, it may not get a following wind. The last six years have been unusually favourable in the UK. Every year since the recession we have grown faster than France or Germany and in all but one, faster than Italy too. Throughout this period the

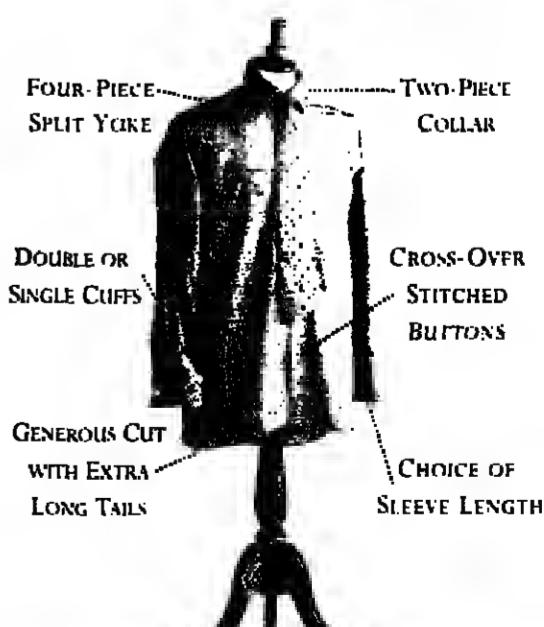
QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Now even the middle classes aren't going."
John Godber, playwright,
on his disenchantment with the theatre

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Se vogliamo che tutto rimanga come è,
bisogna che tutto cambi."
"If we want things to stay as they are,
things will have to change."
Giuseppe di Lampedusa,
Italian author

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Opinion on the American children accused of murder



Did the two boys really know what they were doing? Did they understand that death is final? Did someone harm them or violate them so that they never learned the respect for

THE CRIMES in Chicago and Jonesboro have left authorities scrambling to protect society from children too young to in-

"THE CHILD today is not the child of just a decade ago. More and more, we are seeing child abuse replaced with predatory behaviour in children too young to comprehend fully the implications of what they have done. Although we grieve for this loss of innocence, we also understand that there is a limit that even children cannot be permitted to cross. It is imperative that, despite their youth, those who do so be made to realize the consequences of their actions."

Chicago Sun Times

"SOCIETY IS appalled and confounded by the possibility that a couple of children may have done such a thing. But that very sense of shock reinforces the rationale behind treating children accused of crimes differently from adults. They are salvageable souls. If the two boys are found delinquent, justice would best be served not by locking them away but by doing for them what no one could do for their victim – helping to save them."

Chicago Tribune

FUTILE AS the task may be, the mind struggles to make sense of reports that accuse a seven-year-old and an eight-year-old of brutally murdering another child on Chicago's South Side.

Did the two boys really know what they were doing? Did they understand that death is final? Did someone harm them or violate them so that they never learned the respect for

carcerate in existing facilities. Ultimately a troubling question remains with us: Why are children who used only to quarrel or shove, now capable of murder? The answers are not to be found in excuses about socio-economic background. The answers lie in how we raise our children, whether we inculcate in them a sense of honor and justice, and how well we protect them from pernicious influences. It's that complex and it's that simple."

LA Times

PANDORA

BY THE LOOK of its newest batch of hard-sell promotional literature, trendy Soho marketeers seem to have invaded the traditional Walton Street offices of the Oxford University Press. Today sees the publication of *The New Oxford Dictionary of English*, but what can Oxford's distinguished *dons* make of such hype? "Created over six years by 30 editors and over 60 world-wide consultants, at a cost of over £3m, and weighing in at 3.65 kilos..." begins one OUP handout. Reading this, it is difficult to know whether the product is a new Hollywood blockbuster or a literary cockfight. Anything but a boring old dictionary. Granted, this is a dictionary that includes among its 2,000 new words such ripe specimens of contemporary argot as "boy toy", "trip hop" and "glory hole". Naturally, it is being simultaneously published on the Internet. Most shocking of all, the book's new guidelines on English usage declare that split infinitives are "normal and useful". What do the dons think of that?

HOW INSPIRING to see a photograph in the *Liberal Democratic News* of Matthew Taylor, MP for Truro & St Austell, literally surfing his way through his constituency. Together with members of Surfers Against Sewage, Taylor had donned a wetsuit and climbed on a surfboard to inspect the evidence of pollution of the aptly named Flushing Beach.

LOOK OUT, Soho House, here comes Home House. The club, which is to open its doors in November in the historic town house at 20 Portman Square, designed by Robert Adam and formerly the Cortaud Institute (and, for a time, the spy Anthony Blunt's home). It is looking for an initial membership of 1,000 "humorous, charming, successful" men and women. The managing director, Brian Clivaz, formerly manager of Simpsons in the Strand, told Pandora yesterday that Home House will be "a cross between the Garrick Club and the Hotel Costes in Paris".



THE COMEDY film actress Cameron Diaz (pictured) who plays the female lead in the new Hollywood "stupid" comedy *There's Something About Mary*, has a "thing" about television. "I think it's the devil," she told *Time* magazine. "It has an actual power. There's something that lives inside, and if it's turned on, I cannot breathe. I cannot move, I cannot do anything." By her own account, it does sound as if she's been watching too much telly.

With a joining fee of £1,500 and annual dues of £1,500, it will probably be the most expensive club in London.

RESIDENTS of Belsize Park, fast becoming the Beverly Hills of north London, have become ever so relaxed about all their celebrity neighbours. The other day, two teenage school friends of Bob Hoskins' daughter were waiting for their chum on the pavement outside her house. A kindly passing neighbour mistook them for Oasis fans, stopped and said, "Sorry, girls, you've got the wrong house. He lives down there," pointing to the home of Noel Gallagher. Indeed, Noel's home is difficult to miss. It has the words "Supernova Heights" above its front door.

YESTERDAY, PANDORA published one Arab newspaper's view of the Zipplegate crisis and asked for your suggestions as to the mysterious "red line" that Clinton may have crossed, causing, in the paper's eccentric view, "the CIA to damage the picture of the President". Among the first wave of suggestions comes this from C Davis of Chelsea: "It's got to be the red line on Bill's sexual tachometer. The guy has clearly over-revved his engine." But why should the CIA care? More suggestions please.

MEANWHILE, A Canadian pollster has been canvassing the rest of the world's reaction to Zipplegate and found, according to the *Washington Post*, that a staggering 92 per cent of those polled know what Clinton is alleged to have done with Lewinsky. In most countries, including China, a large majority feel that even if the sexual allegations prove to be true, Clinton should not leave the White House. Only Turks, Malaysians and urban Indians believe that the President, if guilty, should quit. Pandora's conclusion? Useful information for swingers planning their next holiday.

THE COMEDY film actress Cameron Diaz (pictured) who plays the female lead in the new Hollywood "stupid" comedy *There's Something About Mary*, has a "thing" about television. "I think it's the devil," she told *Time* magazine. "It has an actual power. There's something that lives inside, and if it's turned on, I cannot breathe. I cannot move, I cannot do anything." By her own account, it does sound as if she's been watching too much telly.

For women, strength means freedom



BIDISHA
Why would any woman want to look like a shot-putter? It's better than being pretty

EVER SEEN a woman walking alone down a street, late at night? Notice those nervously tapping heels, the wary body language and hair-trigger jumpiness. The way they'll cross the road to be in better light. And then watch a man making the same journey relaxed shoulders, broad stride, right down the middle of the pavement. Men walk, sit and act as if they own the world. The sexes will never be equal until men's physical advantages - and their knowledge of and reliance upon such advantages - are taken away from them.

If you want to know how things are progressing in the politically aware Nineties arena of gender relations, look at the rape and murder rates. Men kill and rape women, and the figures for such crimes haven't decreased in any telling way. By far the greatest number of violent acts committed by women are in retaliation for long-term abuse, and although this week's case of Diane Clark - placed on probation, not in jail, for having stabbed her abusive

husband of 20 years - shows that male domestic violence is unacceptable and marks a definite victory for women's groups, it does not show the other side of the coin. The fury and obsessive hatred that greet stories of "non-domestic" violence perpetrated by women still relies on

an underlying misapprehension that women can only ever be victims.

Men are taught from a very early age to claim huge amounts of space for themselves and mark it out as their territory, whether it's teenage boys loitering in their school lunch hour; daring any female to walk past or through them, or the lone young gent on the Tube confidently sitting with his legs apart. Women, in order to feel safe, must constantly amend or modify their own behaviour in compliance with male attitudes: a more demure pose and expression, perhaps a different route entirely. Women live in constant fear of violence from men, a very primitive, instinctive fear.

Whether or not all men would in fact spring to violence is not the point; the mutual knowledge that men are physically stronger and heavier keeps women in check. If a man yells or whispers something to a woman in the street or on public transport, no matter how stupid, unfit or insulting he is, she must do

her best to assuage his anger, talk him down, be charming enough to defuse any potential violence threat. It is her job to be diplomatic, skillful, wily.

From the earliest age, parents drill their children in notions of gender difference. To be male is to be naturally and rightfully masculine, to be female feminine. Boys, because they will be boys, are encouraged to roam free, to explore their physicality and exploit their growing prowess through sports and general rough-housing with their friends. Girls, on the other hand, must be protected. They are taught to keep out of the boys' way.

It's a tough call: women may indeed be the weaker sex to start off with, but that's nothing a few summers of romping around wouldn't easily sort out. You're not stuck with the body you've been born into. Women must (and many do) take the time to build up, get stronger, to change their form.

A very fit woman can easily out-

muscle most even reasonably fit men, and, even if this is not required, the confidence that accompanies such a knowledge is remarkable. Given that confidence, you automatically begin making moves to reclaim your territory in public - walking more briskly, assuming a more aggressive stance.

But the world conspires against female strength and physical equality. The ideal sport for women - martial arts, which uses skill and speed rather than brawn - still retains an image of B-movie machismo, at least in the West, and isn't given any media coverage at all.

Women have been so indoctrinated with notions of what is fitting in female appearance that they shy away from showing "excessive" strength. Why, they say would anyone want to look like a shot-putter or a man in a dress? I think it's worth it, if the choice is between being conventionally "pretty", and strong or muscular enough to handle any fool who tries to threaten your space.

Is pornography just a bit of fun or a cause for concern?



DAVID AARONOVITCH
Men are ambivalent about pornography, meaning they will look at it, but ashamed they are aroused by it

I DID NOT want to write about pornography today, but they made me. As a writer who tries to meld personal experience with abstract argument, I find this subject full of danger. Men, it has often been said, are "ambivalent" about pornography, meaning that they will look at it if it is available, but they are a bit ashamed that they are aroused by it. Like masturbation (with which it is, indeed, "intimately" linked) it is a topic to be discussed in the abstract, if at all.

But yesterday's call by James Ferman, outgoing director of the British Board of Film Classification, for a relaxation of the laws against certain kinds of video porn, is (said my bosses) too important a moment in our national conversation about sex and censorship for shyness to prevent publication. Give it, they implied, your best shot.

I first saw some pornography when I was 19, in the Bohemian household of a girlfriend. Her brothers were the sort of fearless madcaps who would walk straight into sex shops, look the greasy assistant full in the eye, and walk out with a brown paper bag. In a magazine that they had carelessly left lying around the place was a photo-story - entitled "The Plumber Calls" - concerning an improbably equipped man who rings the bell at the flat of a blonde lady and a dark-haired lady. In frame one they invite him in. In frame two they give him a drink. And in frame three... Everything, but everything, was depicted.

If James Ferman's recommendations were to be accepted, then the video version of "The Plumber Calls" would no longer be illegal, but would be available at licensed sex shops to anyone aged over 18 who wished to buy it. Such "scenes of homosexual or heterosexual intercourse and group sex" would be distinguished from nasty porn which would be more strictly policed than it is now. The plumber could call again and again in the comfort of

your own sitting room. *The Plumber and the Alsatian* could not.

Mr Ferman's argument, based on the failure of the current anti-pornography laws, is very similar to that which calls for the selective legalisation of some of the less harmful hard drugs. First, those who want pornography which essentially depicts no more than what goes on in a Surbiton bedroom on Happy Night will not find themselves standing cheek by jowl with perverts asking for the torrid stuff. Secondly, the link between standard porn and organised crime will be severed, allowing legitimate, regulated porn to move in. Thirdly, the campaign against the most abusive and violent or degrading pornography will be made simpler and more effective as a consequence of narrowing the range of offending publications.

I have an innate sympathy with this argument, but the atmosphere in which we discuss pornography has changed a great deal in the last 10 years. The original rash of post-Sixties "all sex is fun" films and books was put into sharp perspective when Linda Lovelace revealed how badly she had been abused in the making of the notorious *Deep Throat*. Feminists seemed to have a good argument when they pointed out how exploitative much depiction of women was, and how diminished women were by it.

Could there, though, be an acceptable way of representing on screen and in print, sexually exciting images? Some, such as the American anti-pornography crusaders Andrea Dworkin and Catherine Mackinnon, seemed to suggest that there could not. For Dworkin, all intercourse was essentially an assault with a blunt weapon. This position amounted to a criminalisation of the portrayal of sex.

Such puritanism came under assault from two unexpected quarters. Gay Liberation saw the widespread use of pornography for gay men. It clearly did not objectify or degrade women - 'cos there weren't any in it. And a new generation of confident feminists began to challenge the idea that women were inevitable victims in sexual encounters. In fact, said some of them, we quite like naughty stuff too.

Today, some porn seems almost respectable. The films *Boogie Nights* and *The People Versus Larry Flynt* have shown the porn industry in an amusing, almost tender light. Fortunately, the link between standard porn and organised crime will be severed, allowing legitimate, regulated porn to move in. Thirdly, the campaign against the most abusive and violent or degrading pornography will be made simpler and more effective as a consequence of narrowing the range of offending publications.

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A scream for our times



ANNA SOMERS COCKS
'The Scream' is strong meat. Tormented for an age which sees itself as anguished

SO THE NORWEGIANS are claiming that Munch's *The Scream* is now more famous than the *Mona Lisa*. It is certainly true that it belongs to that very small number of works of art (including Van Gogh's *Sunflowers*, the Taj Mahal, Hokusai's *The Wave*) which have entered the general consciousness.

Irreverent jokes can be made about it that would have no point if people did not recognise this nightmare-like image of anguish. On my mantelpiece I have an undulating, blow-up rubber *Scream*, which the Artists' Rights Society has been trying to get suppressed on behalf of Munch's heirs. It should not be so pompous. It is quite funny and no worse than the back-handed tribute paid by Duchamp to the *Mona Lisa* when he painted a moustache on her in the Twenties.

Of course, millions more people see the *Mona Lisa* every year than see *The Scream* (4.7 million at the Louvre last year, as against 300,000 at the National Gallery in Oslo).

The *Mona Lisa* has been given today's accolade of fame: bullet-proof protection against the kind of lunatic who will try to destroy any celebrity, whether it be John Lennon or Michelangelo's *Pietà*. The Louvre has discovered that nearly everyone who goes there wants to see this picture, and package tours charge like bison down the Grande Galerie to stand six-deep in front of the thick glass obscuring this small picture with its treacly varnish.

The Japanese, who are brand snobs, as well as being admirers of all things French, are paying for her to be redisplayed with better lighting in a room of her own.

But the Louvre dares not clean off the yellowed varnish. The world has got used to this tobacco-tinted face and landscape, they say, but they also fear the brickbats of the do-not-touch-a-masterepiece lobby. These zealots tend to think wrongly that the more famous a work of art, the more difficult its conservation.

So the *Mona Lisa* has a big problem. She is almost invisible and is likely to remain so. There is an exquisite, magical, hazy landscape of mountains and rivers behind



'The Scream', Edvard Munch's 1893 painting which has come to symbolise this century's torments

Erich Lessing/AKG London

her, but who has seen it now for decades, apart from a handful of privileged scholars?

Why do we go to look at this old-fashioned looking woman with her famous smile? Has she not become a little like Liz Hurley - famous for

being famous - rather than for the deeply meaningful experience we get from looking at her?

Her super-star status is really a invention of the 19th century, when the Renaissance, of which she is a product, was a period which every-

one knew well and identified with. She was seen to be at the top of a chain of excellence which went something like this: Italy is the most artistic nation in the world; the Renaissance is the most glorious period of Italian art; Leonardo is one

of, if not the, most glorious Renaissance artist and the *Mona Lisa* is his most ineffably mysterious and romantic work - therefore, the *Mona Lisa* is the greatest painting in the world.

She became the centre-piece of

A historian with timeless views

THURSDAY BOOK

HISTORY IN OUR TIME
BY DAVID CANNADINE
YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS, £16.55

DAVID CANNADINE



HISTORIANS TEND to go mad in later life under the weight of their own erudition. Accumulating so much knowledge of the past, they suffer from delusions of infallibility when confronting the present, about which their opinions are often eccentric and sometimes crazed. Witness AJP Taylor's pre-1939 pronouncement that Hitler would not go to war, and his equally dogmatic 1972 assertion that Margaret Thatcher "is no danger as she has such an awful voice".

Nevertheless, just because historians are the guardians of our collective memory, they frequently attain pundit, even guru, status. Their vicarious experience of yesterday may, after all, enable them to act as guides to tomorrow. So David Starkey takes us into the moral maze (and leaves us there). John Keegan prophesies war no more. And David Cannadine publishes a collection of articles that he has composed in "idle moments" over the past decade.

Few academics have spent their idle moments more productively, for these pieces are well worth preserving. All but one are book reviews, the exception being an essay for *The Guardian* on the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Nearly a third of the volume concerns "royals in toils". Another third is devoted to knotty issues highlighted by new historical scholarship, such as class, divorce, empire and Britishness. Finally, a biographical section includes such figures as Florence Nightingale, Winston Churchill, Lord Beaverbrook, Harold Macmillan and Margaret Thatcher.

Throughout, Cannadine writes with infectious verve. He can slash with the best: Kitty Kelley's "unblinking look" at the Royal Family suggests that her eyes "are not permanently open but permanently closed". He relishes alteration, mocking Barbara Cartland's "houdoired and bodiced banalities". His puns, like Victor

THURSDAY POEM

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

BY DUNCAN FORBES

Pretty woman walks to wood.
High heels and fishnet tights.
What's she doing? Can't be good.
Net curtains twitch aside.
Lipstick and cigarette.
Wiggle bottom, jiggle tits.
Who's she going to meet?
Daily doldrums can't decide.
Recognise her? No, not yet.
Tarty slut. Outdoors. Tut, tut.

Sleazy geezer leaves the wood.
Where's he left her? Makes you sick.
What if her assaulted nude's
Bleeding in the bluebell wood?
Voice suspicion 999.
Help. Murder. Rapist. Crime.
Hurry. Woman victim. Quick.
Ambulance. The tick of time.
Police arrive and make arrest:
Transvestite and his party dress.

Our poems until Friday come from *'Ambit 153'*. The magazine costs £6 for a single copy or £22 for an annual subscription. From 17 Priory Gardens, London N6 5QY



Winston Churchill, 'a statesman in an age of decline'

Sir Oswald Mosley is best appreciated as a "displaced and disenchanted aristocrat". Lord Beaverbrook should be seen "as a product - though obviously not a typical one - of his late-19th-century imperial milieu".

That parenthetical qualification reveals the limitations of this mode of personal assessment. Of course, Cannadine knows that human beings are more than mere symptoms of their age. However, it is as a student of the modern age that he excels.

No one better anatomises Victorian values or demolishes the "sound-bite scholarship" supporting their revival as a contemporary shibboleth. No one so well appreciates the irony that today's maligned single-parent family is a throwback to the venerated past when death broke up homes more decisively than divorce does now. No one brings more intellectual rigour to the analysis of class, which is in danger of disappearing into an academic black hole. Above all, no one is such a well informed critic of the monarchy.

This exorcises as the "visible embodiment of stultifying tradition, obscurantist snobbery, unearned income, hereditary privilege" and so on. It is a secretive vested interest at the

heart of our supposed democracy. Its members are remote, under-educated, self-indulgent and self-pitying: Prince Charles is skewed as "the whinger of Windsor". And the title "Royal Highness" is not only anachronistic, but also fosters "demagogic deferential behaviour".

After all, that you might expect a republican solution. But Cannadine tamely favours a slim-line monarchy, with fewer HRHs, in keeping with our reduced position in the world.

Still, it is in this discussion that his characteristic tones emerge most distinctly. But they will not find expression, according to his valedictory introduction, in more essays of the kind reprinted in this book. That is a pity, for they enable him to communicate the complexity of his subject to a large audience in a way in which even Taylor, who sacrificed explanation to epigram, seldom did. Fortunately, as the new director of the Institute of Historical Research, Cannadine will have many opportunities to make his voice heard. It is the voice of intelligent radicalism, incisive but not combative, witty but far from superficial, provocative but eminently sane.

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Anthony Freeman

ANTHONY FREEMAN was an internationally renowned civil and structural engineering specialist. His professional success stemmed from a lifelong passion for bridges - a passion handed on from his father Sir Ralph, who survives him, and his grandfather also Sir Ralph, the founding partner of Freeman Fox and Partners who in 1932 designed the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Anthony Freeman's pride in these three generations of engineering excellence was reflected in the name of his independent practice, *3F Engineering Consultants*.

Freeman's reputation for solving engineering problems, particularly in the construction of difficult suspension and cable-stayed structures, was epitomised by involvement in his last project as an adviser on the Vasco da Gama Bridge in Lisbon. He was brought in specifically to sort out problems with the complex travelling falsework being used. Tragically he was on the bridge in April 1997 inspecting the construction procedures at first hand when the equipment fell from the bridge. Six workers were killed in the accident; Freeman suffered serious head injuries.

Throughout his career Freeman was at the leading edge of design and successfully completed some of the most complex and challenging engineering projects around the world. In particular his work on the 450m-span Rama IX bridge across the Chao Phraya River in Bangkok in 1985, and the Hooghly River crossing in Calcutta to the late Eighties, called for his special engineering "magic" and were projects whose success gave him personal pride.

A Fellow of both the Institutions of Civil and Structural Engineers, he was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 1992 - a rare achievement for someone under the age of 50. But, despite his academic qualifications, he was an engineer who lived and breathed bridge construction, never happier than when hands on on construction sites around the world.

Freeman was born in 1946 and ed-



Freeman was the third generation of his family to be an engineer, and he lived and breathed bridge construction

ucated at Tonbridge School. After gaining a first class honours degree in Engineering Science at Worcester College, Oxford, he started his career with Maunsell, the engineering consultant, working on the design of structures for the elevated M4 Western Avenue in London. However, he moved rapidly to join the contractors Fairfield Mabey on the construction of the mile-long MS Avonmouth Bridge, a box-girder structure designed by his father's firm, Freeman Fox and Partners. It was this project which more than any other galvanised Freeman's passion for the construction of large steel bridges.

Although he did not work for his father's firm until 1974, his very close professional and personal relation-

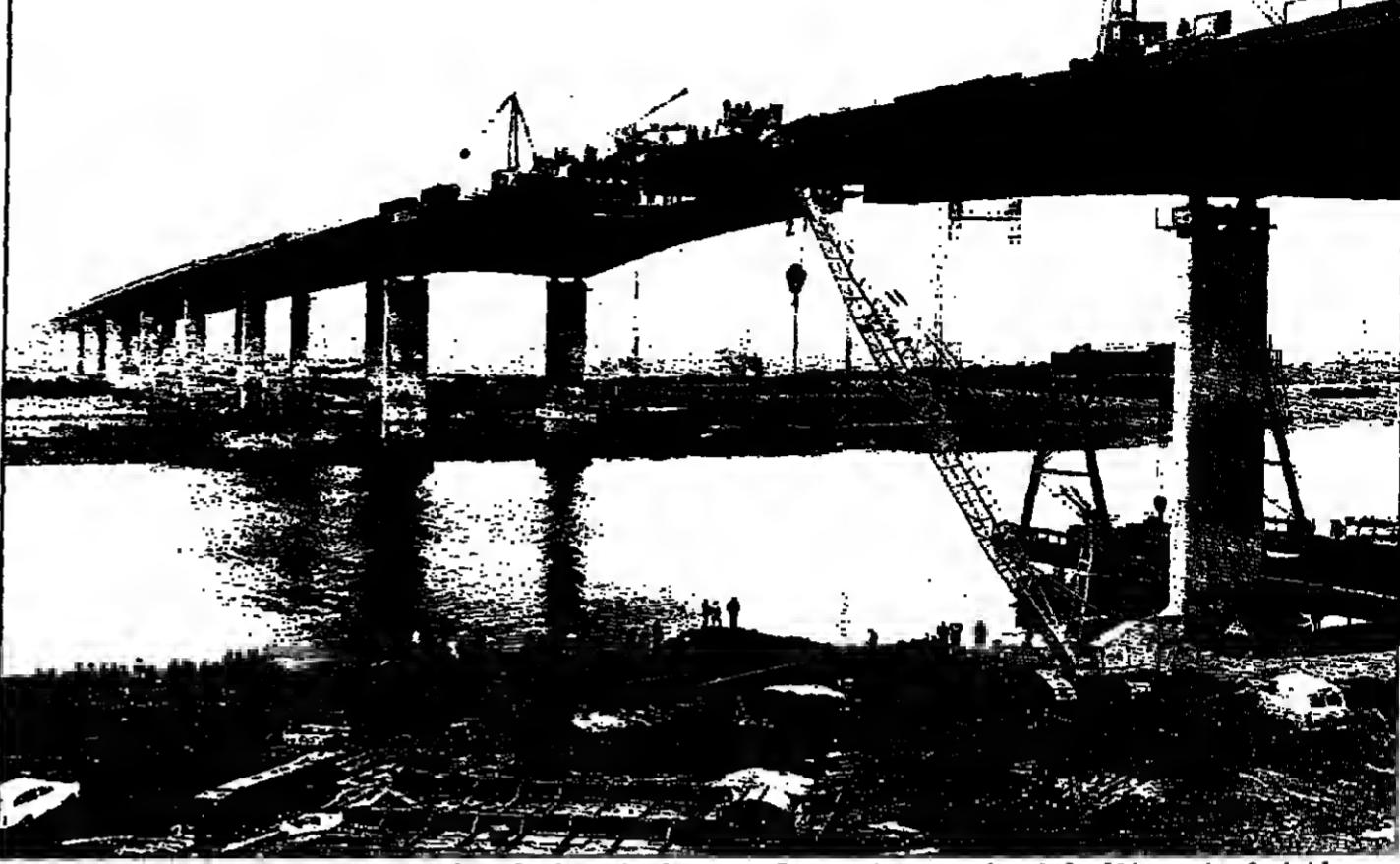
ship with him was a constant influence on his career. They would continually discuss their latest work on bridges around the world offering each other support, help, advice and of course entertainment. After his retirement, Sir Ralph had a fax machine installed at home specifically to aid communication with Anthony around the world - drawings and sketches would regularly fire back and forth and enable him to "recount in length about what *An*" was currently up to.

At Freeman Fox, Anthony Freeman was able to hone his innovative lateral-thinking design skills while working on the reinforcement of large steel box girder bridges. The 1973 Merton report which followed the disastrous box girder bridge collapses at Milford Haven and on the River Yarra in Melbourne led to a major programme of strengthening work in the UK. His practical experience on construction of the Avonmouth bridge allowed Freeman to shine in the office. However it was clear by then that his preferred engineering environment was not in the office but at the heart of construction on site.

Hong Kong's Mass Transit Railway beckoned in 1976, and with his new family - he had married Julia Burtenshaw in 1972 - he moved to work in the Freeman Fox office there. But his enthusiasm for new experiences and expanding his knowledge soon drew him to a job with MAN in Germany to learn their different approach to steel bridge design and construction.

After two years the family returned to England and Freeman to Fairfield Mabey to work on construction of the 4,500-tonne steel-decked Britannia Rail Bridge in North Wales and then on two massive steel headframes for the National Coal Board at Thorne Colliery in South Yorkshire. Both projects were hugely complex technically but under Freeman's direction were brought in on time and to budget. At the age of just 36 he was then made chief engineer at the Mabey Group headquarters.

Always seeking fresh experiences



The last section of the mile-long Avonmouth Bridge is put in place, 1974. Freeman's own work on it fired his passion for bridges

and direction, he set up as an independent consultant in 1984, a decision which was to cement his world reputation as an authority on steel and suspension bridge construction. His friend and former colleague Helmut Homberg gave him the springboard in Thailand working on the Rama IX bridge in Bangkok. Freeman considered this complex structure one of his favourites, not just for the amount of personal effort he put in during the construction, but also because for him the combination of the bridge's modern structural lines and its ancient oriental setting worked perfectly. His many photographs taken during and after construction are featured in a book about the struc-

ture which he co-authored shortly after it was opened.

With the success of this project permanently on view, the 3F Consulting Engineering office opened in Bangkok and went from strength to strength under Freeman's guidance. Many other landmark structures followed including the cable-stayed bridge across the Hooghly River in Calcutta - another personal favourite - as client and contractor turned to his unique ability to find practical solutions to complex structural problems - "always prepared to go beyond the call of duty" to get a project finished.

The family stayed in Bangkok for seven years and made lifelong friends through Freeman's infectious

enthusiasm for life and adventure. His specialist engineering skills led to a variety of projects in addition to bridges including innovative ship lifts, gantries and inspection cranes.

His desire to lead from the front

nearly ended in tragedy in 1990 when he fell from a spectacular flexible roof over the Roman amphitheatre in Nimes, the lifting structure of which he had designed, procured and installed himself.

Moving back to the UK in 1992, he rejoined Maunsell before being persuaded to take his specialist skills to work on the Ting Kau Bridge in Hong Kong in 1996. It was at this time that Freeman pursued his long-standing passion for flying and travelled to the Flacida in the US fi-

ally to complete his Private Pilots Licence - long delayed in the UK by bad weather. This licence gave him a new passion.

His stay in Hong Kong did not last long as he seized the opportunity to move to the Vasco da Gama Bridge across the river Tagus in Lisbon - which he considered would offer greater technical challenges. His accident happened before the project was able to benefit from his skills.

Antony Oliver

Ralph Anthony Freeman, civil and structural engineer; born Oct 1946; married 1972 Julia Burtenshaw (one son, two daughters); died Wargrave, Berkshire 15 July 1998.



Sir Edgar Keatinge

A pugnacious and sagacious scion of an imperial civil service family - but quite unprepared for his new role

ready to hand. What was unexpected, however, was the emergence as a serious challenger of the highly experienced, if somewhat maverick Liberal politician Margaret Corbett Ashby. To be sure, Mrs Ashby resigned all her Liberal Party positions, in order to evade the wrath of her party leader, Sir Archibald Stirling. But there was a strong and quick-witted Liberal tradition in Bury, and the support of the Commonwealth Party was readily proffered to her.

Churchill chose to take the baton as a serious challenge to the Gov-

ernment, and Keatinge therefore found himself in the unexpected - and somewhat unwelcome - position of being a national political figure. At issue, it was widely deemed, was the credibility of the Government; and called to defend that credibility was a pugnacious and sagacious scion of an imperial civil service family, who was also a farmer, but quite unprepared for his new role.

Keatinge was born in 1905, sent home to school at Rugby, and thereafter to Natal to study agriculture. After five years' service with the South African Department of Agriculture he returned finally to England, where he set about farming the substantial family estate, and plunged into the affairs of local government and the Territorial Army.

When war came he was sent back to Africa, where he served as a Royal Artillery officer, reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and became the first commander of the West African Artillery School. He was particularly adept at the business of military organisation.

And, in 1944, organisational skills

were sorely needed in Bury St Edmunds, with a greatly reduced Tory majority of 2,500, was not a candidate in the 1945 general election. He had bought a new home in Wiltshire and, with typical conscientiousness, decided that he could not combine his new responsibilities

with a parliamentary job. He passed, therefore, from public life, with the single exception of a brief and undeviatingly patriotic speech to the war ministry over an attempt by the department in 1954 to repossess some land of his which had been requisitioned by the Government during the war.

For the rest of his long life he pursued happily his avocations of farming, shooting and local government. He was, in short, a simple and loyal man who had, for a brief period, endured a significant role in national life; and discharged his duty with honour.

Patrick Cosgrave

Edgar Mayne Keatinge, politician; born Bombay 3 February 1905; County Councillor for West Suffolk 1933-45; parliamentary candidate, Isle of Ely 1938-45; MP (Conservative) for Bury St Edmunds 1944-51; director, St Madeleine Sugar Co 1944-62; CBE 1954; Kt 1960; director, Caron Ltd 1962-66; married 1930 Katharine Burrell (died 1990; one son, one daughter); died Salisbury, Wiltshire 7 August 1998.

Professor Syed Ali Ashraf

THE MUSLIMS most prominent in the British media are known because of the noise they make and the heat they generate. They fit into preconceived ideas of Muslim fanatics and extremists. It is natural therefore that Syed Ali Ashraf is virtually unknown in the media. This is a pity, as Ashraf was one of the half-dozen most important Muslim scholars of the last few decades.

His early years were spent in a provincial university teaching English in what was East Pakistan and is now Bangladesh. He then moved to Karachi University, where he remained Professor and Head of the Department of English from 1956 to 1973. He belonged to that generation of south Asians who not only wrote in English but spoke the language with perfect diction - the Queen's English.

He made an international impact as the organising secretary of the First World Conference on Muslim Education held in Mecca in 1977. He then helped organise five follow-up World Conferences in different capitals of the Muslim world. In 1980 he was appointed the first Director

General of the World Centre for Islamic Education, set up by the Organisation of Islamic Conference in Mecca.

In the 1970s Ashraf had moved to Cambridge, which he had loved from the time he completed his PhD there. The Islamic Academy was set up in Cambridge in 1983 in order to further Islamic studies in Britain, and Ashraf became its Director-General. Aided by his trusty deputy, the indefatigable Abdul Mabud, also from Bangladesh, he produced a stream of books and organised seminars. The journal he edited, *Muslim Education Quarterly*, was also begun in 1983.

In the last decade of his life Ashraf made a significant contribution to education in Britain. Collaborating with Cambridge University, a series of seminars and books resulted. His approach, which found an echo in British educationalists, may be summed up in his own words in the book *Religion and Education: Islamic and Christian approaches* (co-edited with Paul H. Hirst, 1992):

I hope the recent faith-based seminar

will extend our area of co-operation and help the authorities not merely of the United Kingdom but also of the rest of the world to formulate an education system which will be based on a philosophical framework of values derived from all the major religions of the world and allow faiths to play their necessary role in supporting that framework. This will help the liberal humanists also in finding for pupils a framework of certainties which extreme secularism is destroying today.

Ashraf's high standard of academic work, his impact outside his discipline and his contribution to the debate on education in our times made him a key player in the field of Muslim education. His 1991 book *Islam* is now part of the GCSE course on World Religions. During his last years he struggled successfully to set up a university in Dhaka, which opened in 1997. As Vice-Chancellor he divided his time between Dhaka and Cambridge.

His soft way of speaking, affectionate manner and hospitable nature made him a much-loved figure. Because of his erudition most people who came in contact with him thought of him as a teacher; many saw him as a spiritual mentor. With

his ordinary clothes and humble appearance it was easy to mistake him for a country bumpkin. But this professor rubbed shoulders with presidents and prime ministers.

Ashraf was a committed Muslim but his tolerance did not sit easily with many of his co-religionists. His personal religious philosophy is contained in these lines:

I am trying to bring together all the important religions recognised in this country in order to maintain both unity and diversity. Unity lies in the concept of One Unique Supreme and Transcendental Reality which is the Deity or God in Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism and the Transcendental Reality in Buddhism. In the concept of the presence of a spirit in each individual which is endowed with eternal values in potentiality and in the recognition of some form of divine guidance.

Ashraf's last years were a trial;

his health collapsed and his beloved wife, the devoted companion of many campaigns, underwent a series of operations that failed. She exists in a state of coma. In spite of these misfortunes his good cheer and faith never left him.

Akbar S. Ahmed

Syed Ali Ashraf, Islamic scholar; born Dhaka, India 1 January 1925; Professor of English and Head of the Department of English, Karachi University 1956-73; Director-General, World Centre for Islamic Education, 1980-98; Director-General, Islamic Academy, Cambridge 1983-98; Vice-Chancellor, University of Dhaka 1997-98; married; first met Ashraf in 1962 when he



J.P. M. 1998

Professor Tom Kaiser

TOM KAISER was Professor of Space Physics at Sheffield University from 1966 until 1987. During this period he attracted high-quality scientists to Sheffield, building up an internationally renowned group in Space Geophysics.

His move to Sheffield occurred at an important time. The space age was about to begin, and he was one of the first to recognise that space technology would be important for the study of the upper atmosphere. He built up experimental expertise at Sheffield in radio frequency (RF) impedance probes to fly on rockets and was Principal Investigator for similar experiments flown on the early UK satellites, *Ariel 3* and *Ariel 4*. *Ariel 4* measured very low frequency radiation that arises from disturbances due to the entry of charged particles into the ionosphere, from thunderstorms and man-made sources.

Kaiser also recognised the benefits of making simultaneous measurements from the ground and was heavily involved in the development of the very low frequency (VLF) programme at the British Antarctic Survey at Halley Bay. He was foremost among UK scientists in realising the potential of Antarctica for space physics research. The space and ground-based programmes also led to Kaiser's interest in wave-particle interactions in space plasmas.

Kaiser had come to England from Australia in 1971, having obtained first class honours in his Bachelor's degree in Physics at the University of Melbourne in 1943, followed by a Master's in 1946 while working as a research officer in the Sydney Radiophysics Laboratory of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

On arriving in England he went to University College and the Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford, completing his doctorate, on the acceleration of charged particles, in two years.

Because of the Cold War political climate at the time, Kaiser was forced to return to Australia as a result of an incident that became known as "the Kaiser affair", in which he took part in a demonstration outside Australia House against the Australian government's gaoling of union leaders during a coal strike. However, as a member of the Communist Party, Kaiser's continued political activity made it necessary for him to leave Australia for good in 1950. He joined Manchester University's Jodrell Bank Experimental Station as the Turner Newell and ICI Research Fellow.

In the early days of radio astronomy



Kaiser in his laboratory at Sheffield. He worked at Jodrell Bank in the early days of radio astronomy

at Jodrell Bank, Kaiser was fascinated by the train of ionised atoms that an incoming particle of interplanetary dust leaves behind as it burns up in the atmosphere and the way in which this train can be quantified by looking at the radar signals reflected from it.

He carried out theoretical and experimental research on the ionisation trails of meteors, using the then relatively new scientific technique of radar.

This pioneering work provided the scientific basis for a number of different research fields, in particular the development of meteor radar reflection as a diagnostic for the study of winds in the upper atmosphere. His early papers on

the cross-section of the meteor ionisation trail are still regarded as the fundamental ones in this area.

Tom Kaiser was always concerned to help, and support fearlessly, the underprivileged and those he thought might have been wronged. I believe he enjoyed pulling the tails of those in high authority, especially if he judged them to be pompous and incompetent.

He was an inspirational teacher and motivator of both undergraduate and graduate students. Many happy hours were spent at the hilltop site near Sheffield that he covered with a variety of radar aerials. Even on cold and wet nights, his stories kept you going and the

happy marriage between theory and experiment and the feeling that science is fun was consolidated.

Hugo Alleyne

Thomas Reeve Kaiser, space physicist; born Melbourne, Australia 2 May 1924; Turner Newell and ICI Research Fellow, Jodrell Bank Experimental Station, Manchester University 1950-55; Lecturer in Physics, Reading University 1955-66; Senior Lecturer in Physics, Sheffield University 1966-67; Professor of Space Physics 1966-67 (Emeritus); married 1949 Pamela Fould (two sons, one daughter); died Palma, Majorca 2 July 1998.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

KERFERD: George Briscoe, Emeritus Professor of Greek. On 9 August 1998, in hospital, and Didbury, Manchester. He was aged 88. He was the beloved husband of the late Marianne and dear father of George and Charlotte Service and interim at Dunham Lanes Cemetery, Dunham Massey, Altringham, on Monday 17 August at 1pm. All donations are invited to C. Middleton & Son, 534 Parva Road, Didbury, Manchester M20 6JD. Telephone 0161 434 3725.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HOWARD: David. Died 13 August 1998. It is going to be held at RN College Chapel, Greenwich, on 23 September at 2pm.

IN MEMORIAM

HOWARD: David. Died 13 August 1998. It is going to be held at RN College Chapel, Greenwich, on 23 September at 2pm.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery presents the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards. 11am. F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

BRITANNIA ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE

The following officers have passed out from Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth:

Graduate Entry Seaman: O.D. Barritt; C.E. Brewster; R. Butler; C.R. Fenwick; M.F. Gardner; C.T. Green; K.J. Hume; J.R. Hutchings; R.J. Murphy; S.C. Murray; E.R. Neethling; N.A. Paine; M. Rees; D. Ross; R. Ross; V.J. Rudd; M.L. Smith; C. Stirling; R.M. Steele; G.H. Thomas; P.B. Van Nijkerk; S.N. Wall.

BIRTHDAYS

Miss Sheila Armstrong, soprano, 56; Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beavis, former Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, Central Europe, 62; Dr Fidel Castro, president of Cuba, 71; The Rev Leo Chamberlain, Headmaster, Ampleforth College, 58; Mr Roy Evans, trade union leader, 67; Miss Marie Helvin, model, 66; Mrs Madhur Jaffrey, actress and cookery writer, 65; Mr Jeffrey James, ambassador to Iran, 54; Miss Susan Jameson, actress, 55; Sir Thomas Legg QC, Permanent Secretary, Lord Chamberlain's Department, 63; Sir John Milne, former chairman, Blue Circle Industries and DRG, 74; Lord Orton, former MP, 85; Mr Mark Pyper, Headmaster, Gordonstoun School, 51; Lord Salisbury, joint president, J. Sainsbury plc, 96; Dr Frederick Sanger, biochemist, 80; Mr Alan Shear, footballer, 28; Mr George Shearing, pianist, 79.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Erasmus Bartholin, physicist, 1625; James Gillray, caricaturist, 1756; Queen Adelaide, consort of William IV, 1792; Sir George Grove, engineer and editor, *Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, 1820; William Thomas Best, organist and composer, 1828; Romesh Chunder Dutt, Indian writer and politician, 1848; Robert Hausmann, shipowner, 1857;

Naval College Entry, Seaman: B.M. Barlow; J. Butler; R.A. Dallimore; A.G. Fraser; S.G. Irwin; S.T.L. Owen; I.E. Skipworth; A.G. Spokes.

Direct Graduate Entry, Engineer: M.J.A. Barnes; C. Davies; J.S. Fort; R.C. Hosking; Bruce; M.A.G. Holwood; S.W. Martin; A.C. Moody; M.D. Taft.

Direct Graduate Entry, Engineer (Training Management): B.H. Carter; T.L. Collins; M.J. Dennis; M.J. Dick; T.L. Harrison; G.S. Taylor; D. Vincent; A.T. Williams.

Direct Graduate Entry, Supply: L.M. Brimicombe; H.E. Burchett; M.J. Colman; J.A. Downing; W.H. K. Gilliland; K.M. Hall; R.L. Smith; S.M. Taylor; J.Z. Terry; A.J. Thackwary.

Herbert George Wells, novelist, 1946; Henry Williamson, novelist, 1977.

On this day: Hernando Cortés, leading his Spanish

troops, took Tenochtitlan

(Mexico City), 1521; the

French armies were defeated

at Blenheim by the Aus-

trians and English, 1704;

Cape of Good Hope Province

was ceded to Britain by the

Dutch, and it became a

British Colony, 1814; Dr Lud-

wig Leichhardt and his party

set out to explore the area

between Moreton Bay and

Port Essington, Australia,

1844; earthquakes in Peru

and Ecuador destroyed four

cities and killed over 25,000

people, 1868; Manila in the

Philippines was captured by

US forces, 1898; Mustapha

Kenel (Atatürk) was elected

president of Turkey, 1923;

over 13,000 people died in

floods in the Honan, Human

and Kwantung areas of

China, 1924; the Central

African Republic became

independent, 1960; the fron-

tier between East and West

Germany was closed after

the East Germans sealed the

border, 1961; the last

hangings in Britain took

place, when two men were

executed for murder at

Liverpool and Manchester;

1964; the last US troops left

Vietnam, 1972.

Today is the Feast Day of St

Benildus, St Caesarius of

Imola, St Hippolytus of

Rome, St Maximus the Con-

fessor, St Narces Klaietus, St

Pontian, pope, St Radegund,

queen, St Simplician of Milan

and St Wibert.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Jacqueline Ansell, "Beasts II: Holbein, *Lady with a Squirrel and a Starling*", 1pm.

Victoria and Albert

Museum: Fahmida Shah,

"The Koran in Islamic Art".

2pm.

Tate Gallery: Andrew

Kennedy, "Breaking the

Mind-Forg'd Manacles": the

work of William Blake", 1pm.

Wallace Collection, London

W1: Stephen Duffy, "Arms

and Armour", 1pm.

2pm.

Appointments

Mr Kit Chivers, to be

Chief Inspector of HM

Magistrates' Courts Service

Inspectorate.

Mr John Richard Douglas

Adams, to be a circuit judge,

on the South Eastern Circuit.

Mr Peter Cooper, to be

Director of the Institute of

Physics.

Service Appointments

The following Army appoint-

ments have been announced:

Cadets: A.P. Davidson, to Service

Attache Prague; R.N. Wertheim, to

Service Attache Berlin; R.D. Boden AGC,

to ADCS Overseas; A.P.W. Campbell

AASB, to MSA APC LM, Dowdwell

RA, to D Pol (IC).

Announcements for Gazette

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES &

DEATHS (Births, Adoptions,

Marriages, Deaths, Memorial

services, Wedding anniver-

saries, in memoriam) are

charged at £5.50 a line (VAT extra).

OTHER Gazette

announcements (notices,

functions, Forthcoming mar-

riages, Marriages), which

must be submitted in writing,

are charged at £10 a line,

VAT extra. Always include a

daytime telephone number.

LINGUISTIC NOTES

DAVID CRYSTAL

From Scrabble to Drabble via Babble

EVERYONE PLAYS with language or responds to language play. Some take mild pleasure from it; others are totally obsessed by it; but no one can avoid it. Indeed, there seems to be more of it about now than at any previous period of linguistic history.

We play with language when we manipulate it as a source of enjoyment, either for ourselves or for the benefit of others. I mean "manipulate" literally: we take some linguistic feature – a word, a group of sounds, a series of letters – and make it do things it does not normally do. We are, in effect, bending and breaking the rules of language. And if you were to ask why we do it, the answer is simply: for fun.

But "enjoyment" and "fun" are not words which usually come to mind when we start to think about language. What, after all, is language for? The sober, conventional answer talks about people "communicating" with each other, in the sense that one person sends a meaning, a thought, an idea, and another person receives it. The whole point of language, it is assumed, is to foster the transmission of knowledge, however



Battle of writs against the IRA

The IRA are using the libel laws to intimidate newspapers and fill their coffers. By Rachel Halliburton



A former member of the IRA, Sean O'Callaghan put his own life in danger by testifying against Tom Murphy, a suspected IRA terrorist, in what turned out to be a landmark case

Frank Spooner

The British and Irish media could give the IRA millions of pounds over the next few years. The farcical twists and turns of libel laws have caught newspapers and broadcasters in a legal labyrinth that could lead to their financing acts of terrorism. In the last six years, a record number of writs in Ireland have been issued against newspapers that name or give clues about people they suspect to be IRA members. Of course, many of the plaintiffs will have genuinely been wrongly accused, but according to Sean O'Callaghan, a former high-ranking member of the Provisional IRA, some of the claims are the result of a senior-level IRA decision to intimidate newspapers.

O'Callaghan spills out a situation

that challenges every journalist who wants to cover Northern Ireland, and raises uncomfortable questions for newspapers and broadcasters that want to boast a clean bill when condemning terrorism. He says: "About two-and-a-half to three years ago, there was a deliberate decision taken by senior IRA management to issue writs even when there was no hope of the case being won. It's a sophisticated way of working the system, which intimidates papers who try to name IRA members."

O'Callaghan's account is backed up by Jason McCue, a British lawyer who specialises in defending newspapers and television companies against alleged terrorists. Most recently, he was involved in the battle between *The Sunday Times* and Tom Murphy, a leading IRA man.

McCue noticed a dramatic increase in writs issued some time before the IRA decision reported by O'Callaghan. He says: "Over the last six to seven years, about 30 writs have been issued by alleged IRA members against the media. If they are justified in their complaints, then these should be dealt with accordingly, but I feel I have a responsibility to fight these cases, because if the allegations are correct, the money could go straight into buying arms for the IRA."

So what does it take to fight these actions and win? Until May this year, the answer was: "No one wins against the IRA." That was before the Dublin trial instigated by Thomas "Slab" Murphy against *The Sunday Times*. Murphy claimed he was only a pig farmer, who could not

even remember his date of birth and had never heard of the Maze prison. By the end of the trial, the story was strikingly different. The jury agreed by a majority of 10 to one that Murphy was a prominent member of the Provisional IRA who had presided over a planned bombing campaign of 12 English seaside resorts.

But what did *The Sunday Times* have to do to win such a victory? How do you prove someone is an IRA activist, if, as was the case with Murphy, he or she has no formal press in a free society? If someone decides to go after you, the standards of proof demanded by the law are often too high to be met."

The result of *The Sunday Times'* decision to go against the grain is the greatest libel adventure story since the battle between *The Guardian* and Jonathan Aitken. It took *The Sunday Times* eight years to pin Murphy down, and the verdict came 13 years after the article was written. The then editor, Andrew Neil,

had to threaten to resign before it was seriously considered that *The Sunday Times* would go ahead with the case. Until then, lawyers had been urging him to hand over £400,000 in an out-of-court settlement. Stunned by the newspaper's decision, Murphy asked the court hearing to be postponed from 1989 to 1990. Still he lost the case. However, in May 1996 his appeal against the verdict was finally allowed. This time, *The Sunday Times* realised it would have to deploy its full investigative forces to win again.

The key point was to prove that the forged passport, used by Murphy on suspected arms-buying trips to Greece and the former Yugoslavia, was part of a stolen batch that was being used by other IRA terrorists. Two other significant factors were

the witness statements of Eamon Collins and Sean O'Callaghan, former members of the IRA. Both knew they were putting their lives in danger by testifying against Murphy. Days before the trial took place in Dublin, it was uncertain whether O'Callaghan would take the plunge, and appear in the Irish Republic for the first time in 15 years. When he did, the force of the combined testimonies and evidence was such that the jury took less than an hour to find Murphy guilty.

This is what is needed. Witnesses prepared to risk their lives, large amounts of surplus money and a lot of executive time - all rare commodities on a newspaper. The journalist who names a suspected terrorist balances on a knife-edge. If he or she is wrong, the political and

I want a long holiday from my marriage

What Virginia says

A marriage is a contract between two people, and it sounds as though Kay and her husband have signed different versions - and neither knows what's written on the other's piece of paper.

Kay has clearly always thought of herself as an independent being who didn't do her own thing only because she was bringing up the children. She feels her marriage should be strong enough, after all this time, to bear a mere three months of separation. She sees it as a contract of love and trust, not a commitment to stick together like glue for ever and share everything that comes their way. She sees the relationship as more like that of brother and sister; for ever committed to each other but basically independent.

Kay's husband, on the other hand, sees his marriage as being a contract of togetherness. He sees himself as part of a unit, and perceives their relationship as one of lovers. Presumably he's been working hard for years to support the family, and feels he's put quite as much into it financially, as Kay has done practically. Were he to inherit it, he would not dream of keeping it for himself. He would immediately share it with Kay because he sees them as one pair, not two people.

I wonder how he feels about being betrayed when Kay suggests leaving him for so long. What's going on? Does she want to leave him? How could she bear to be away from him for such a long time? He's prepared to work and support her, so why is she suddenly not prepared and support him in her own way? He must feel goaded at the idea.

Kay, on the other hand, feels resentful. It's her money, she feels,

and she deserves a break. But has she thought it through? Three months is a hell of a long time away. I was on a 10-day cruise once, and felt I was on a floating prison. You are trapped in a world of mainly elderly people - most cruise ships have a hospital on board, and doctors to register the deaths of the many people who die during their floating bolt.

Ghastly head-stringing classes abound, not to mention balloon dancing (no fun without a partner), scary-telling, origami and bingo. No one introduces anyone to anyone else, and as a lone woman she'd find it hard to meet other people. Occasionally she'd be let off for a couple of hours to nip round a foreign port, and then it's back to jail.

Of course, it could be that this holiday idea is a way for Kay to try to find out how she would cope on her own. Maybe she's thoroughly bored and fed up with her long-married, although she doesn't consciously realise it, and wants her own "space". To use that overused word. Or perhaps she is really taking her husband for granted and simply doesn't appreciate that he has been working not just for himself but for his entire family. Has it occurred to her that he may feel he deserves a break?

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DILEMMAS



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE
Kay's looked after three children - now grown-up - and a loving but demanding husband for 25 years. Now she's got an inheritance she wants to go away for three months on a world cruise. Her husband is furious, saying she's selfish. She feels she deserves a break. What should she do?

What readers say

Tell him he means a lot to you I suspect your husband was not a little hurt by your suggestion. He may be wondering what the last 25 years were worth, if you suddenly want to go away for such a long period. From your description of him as "demanding" it sounds as though he is somewhat insecure.

Explain to him how important he is to you, and that you feel the need for more stimulation in your life. Then perhaps you could suggest a compromise. As he works, he obviously cannot come with you for three months. Can you reduce the length of time you wish to travel, so that he can join you for half of it?

In this way a happy compromise can be reached and your marriage, as well as your daily life, could receive a new lease of life.

EMMA WATKINS
Coventry

Mee hate change
In 1970, with a daughter aged 12 and son aged nine, I applied for a job in social work for one-and-a-half days a week. My husband, mother and sister were furious when I was offered the job.

Now my husband recognises that it was a good thing to do; men basically do not welcome change - es-

specially when creature comforts are concerned!

I would suggest to Kay that three months away is too long - she may not enjoy it as much as she hoped. Why not have a two-week cruise and, should she enjoy it, then suggest to her husband that they could both enjoy such a holiday together?

HELEN CALDER
Berkow Castle, Co Durham

Don't turn this down
Rarely in life are we handed money on a plate. So unless there are pressing hills, enjoy it and the memory. After 25 years married, your husband must know you love him but will need reassurance before you go that you will miss him.

FRAN SMITH
Southend-on-Sea, Essex

Escape this dreary routine
Kay is not playing the cards right; her first thought, to be politically correct, would be to suggest that both she and her husband go on a cruise. Give the breadwinner a choice; he will feel acknowledged as a partner

to share the bounty. He would more than likely refuse the idea, as it would mean too much time away from work. He might even suggest spending the money on a new car and refurbishing his greenhouse.

It sounds as though the love has faded and flown away with the children. If Kay's husband refuses, she should opt for a month's cruise by herself and, like Shirley Valentine, the freezer with home-cooked meals. If she hasn't the courage for this, buy a computer and sign up on the Internet - world travel is available 24 hours a day at the press of a button.

PATRICIA MILLER

It would be a betrayal
For the last 25 years your husband has worked his balls off to bring in the money that will support him, you and the children.

The first time you get a whiff of some of your own cast, all you can think about is running away from him and escaping. There is only one word for that: betrayal.

Get a life and get a job if you are bored at home - then perhaps your husband will be able to retire earlier and you can go on a cruise together.

ANON

POETIC LICENCE

TROUBLE WITH MINK
BY MARTIN NEWELL
ILLUSTRATION:
MICHAEL HEATH



Five thousand Mustelidae
Or mink (*Mustela vison*)
A type of stoat
Were languishing in prison
When came a kindly zealot
Self-righteous in compassion
Saying: 'All are free
You shall not be'

A sacrifice to fashion'
A spokesmink for the martens
Said: 'That's a bit of luck.
Well, thanks a bunch
We must do lunch!'

And promptly killed a duck
Before the hordes hit Hampshire
To vent their fearful habits

On water rats

Domestic cats

The fish, the fowl and rabbits
These creatures held a meeting
In mood less than delirious

Which badger chaired

Opinions aired

Included: 'This is serious

These mobile stoles are starving

And nothing makes them scared

The soccer thugs

Are Ladyboys compared'

'Who freed them?' asked a squirrel

'Some idiot,' said Badger

'Who gets ideas'

'So it appears'

From tugging at his tagger

'Our noble act will lead to

'Our future situation'

'That final breath'

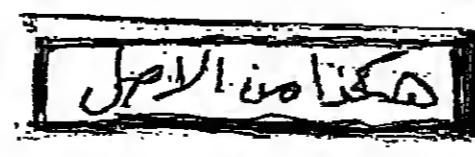
'Which we call death'

'But he calls liberation.'

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia,
My husband and I are involved in a particularly acrimonious divorce. He promised to pay for all my son's school equipment and clothes, and so far has failed to do so, however much I may need. I have paid for essentials, but now my son needs a new rucksack to take his things to school. It is falling to pieces and schoolwork

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interiors. Send comments and suggestions to Virginia Ironside, Features Department, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving your postal address.



Can white girls sing the blues? This one can

Finger-snapping and scat-singing are still *de rigueur* for jazz singers. But not for Lisa Ekdahl. By Phil Johnson

SOMETIMES IT seems there are a million female jazz vocalists out there and hardly any of them are any good (the male sector is probably even worse, but it's less crowded). Whether it's the piano-pron appeal of Michelle Pfeiffer in *The Fabulous Baker Boys* or the sultry poses of sundry sensual soubrettes from the past that are to blame, who knows? but there's an apparently endless stream of women who want to snap their fingers and wax lyrical on the age-old verities of the great American songbook while some hokum plays the piano in the background.

Of course, some female vocalists are wonderful, but no one is ever going to beat Billie Holiday at her own game, and the stereotype of the chanteuse delivering smoky ballads with a note of world-weariness in her voice is, after 50 years or more, beginning to grate. So when a new female jazz singer emerges from exactly this tradition, yet who abjures the old finger-snapping and scat-singing approach in favour of attempting to communicate the meaning of a lyric or the subtlety of a musical phrase, you want to roll out the red carpet and bang the gong, big-time. And maybe the best thing about the Swedish vocalist Lisa Ekdahl (who plays the Pizza Express in Soho this month, with the Peter Nordahl Trio) is that she doesn't need to be a jazz singer at all.

In Sweden, Ekdahl is a huge pop star, regularly topping the charts with her own gentle, folkish ditties (her debut album went quadruple-platinum); but she has an abiding regard for the distinctive vocal style of trumpeter and singer Chet Baker.

Like Baker, Ekdahl may not have a lot in the way of God-given pipes, but she knows what to do with them. Her debut jazz album, *When*

Did You Leave Heaven? (RCA Victor), isn't perfect, but she can more than carry a tune, and it's usually a tune that has been chosen, with great sensitivity. Her fragile, reassuringly human-sized voice, moves through a selection of standards, accompanied by her regular band.

Though it has only recently come out here, the album was recorded four years ago in Stockholm, in one

I don't analyse the lyrics, definitely not – after all, it's not that difficult to understand them – but I try to open up as much as possible

day, live, using Fifties equipment. The record wasn't intended for release, as in Sweden it was thought it might affect Ekdahl's pop career. A private pressing of 300 copies were sent out by the record company as gifts to favoured customers, and this resulted in a positive response. So Ekdahl and the group decided to release the album.

When we meet to talk in a Paris café, next door to the club where she and the band are playing, Ekdahl, who is 27, talks feelingly about the way she tries to sing jazz, occasionally furrowing her brow as she translates Swedish thoughts into English. "What the band appreciated about me was that I was so relaxed," she says. "I just present the song and I'm patient when they do their solos,

which I enjoy. This patience is an important quality because singers often want to take up room all the time, but all of us try to leave a lot of space for each other."

Of Chet Baker, she says: "I'm in love with him all the time since when I was a young teenager. He could do almost anything with his voice because he was musical and it was a good voice, but he had good taste so he didn't do everything he could do. It feels as if he's very confident, and that he trusts the song and the lyrics. He doesn't try to show off. He just sings the song, and it's as if he's resting all the time that he's singing. Can you say that in English?"

Ekdahl's approach to the lyrics of the standard songs is endearingly unfussy. "I don't analyse the lyrics, definitely not – after all, it's not that difficult to understand them – but what I do is try to open up as much as possible. When you sing you are the instrument and you have to use yourself and to open up, and that's what I do, that's my plan. To do that, it's very important that you trust the musicians and that you're comfortable. I also think that by opening up you can communicate on another level. I don't have any idea of what I want to present, and when everything is perfect it's as if you're not doing anything. It's more about surrendering to the tune. Big words for me! When everything's perfect it's happening faster than thought."

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Not one of your regular, world-weary chanteuses, Lisa Ekdahl is a refreshing new jazz voice

much more vulnerable when I sing. In life, I feel I have the right to protect myself, but when I sing I have this sense that I'm not allowed this. It's not fair to the music and the art. Yes, it can be uncomfortable, but mostly it's not, because it's an opportunity. You're allowed to do it when you sing, and people expect it of you." When I press her on what would

be an American equivalent to the songs she writes in her pop career (and her albums are like a kind of light folk-rock, with the addition of some world music rhythms), Ekdahl comes up with Leonard Cohen. "It's just a few chords, nothing political, just love and poetry. It's a very Swedish thing, very simple. Nature is a part of it, and big forests."

The governing mood of exquisite melancholy does relate, however, to her jazz singing. "It's like the difference between being depressed and just allowing the sadness be there," she says of her own songs. "When you listen to Chet Baker you don't have the impression that he's depressed, you just have the impression that he allows the sadness

to be there, and it's very nice. It's about opening up and allowing whatever is there to come out."

Seeing Lisa Ekdahl open up in live performance could be a cathartic experience, for us as well as for her.

Lisa Ekdahl sings at Pizza Express, Dean Street, London W1 from 26 to 30 August (0171-437 9595)

Neville Elder



A funny way to paper the house

A PARTICULARLY hot and sticky night in the Albert Hall on Monday saw two Proms: an early-evening orchestral programme by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Tadeaki Otaka, and a late-night concert by the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group under Sir Simon Rattle.

While the promenaders are famed for their attentive listening, some in the posher parts of the hall do not just rattle their jewellery during the music, but their drinks glasses and bottles too. Whether it was one of these idiots or not, something disrupted the early stages of the opening performance of Dukas's *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, causing au-

dible counting from Otaka to keep the orchestra in time.

The programme – an attempt to respond to the season's "Musical magic and mystery" theme – was decided odd, lassoing two Late Romantic warhorses around a recent work by Sofia Gubaidulina and some rare Szymanowski. The Dukas and Richard Strauss's *Also sprach Zarathustra* were played with relish, but the tenor Jean-Paul Foucoudre lacked the power to put across the perfumed excesses of Szymanowski's *Songs of an Infatuated Muezzin*, with the heat causing intonation problems for players as well as singer.

Gubaidulina's *And: the feasting at*

PROMS
BBC NATIONAL ORCHESTRA OF WALES/BIRMINGHAM CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP ROYAL ALBERT HALL

its height, receiving its British première, is an almost 30-minute cello concerto of sorts. The solo part was written for David Geringas, who gave an impassioned account of its melismas, swooping and twitterings. Responding to a vision of the Last Judgement by the Chuvash poet Gennady Aigi, Gubaidulina has come up with music of greater energy and direction than usual, though

the powerful eruptions of the work's two big climaxes are prepared, perhaps too protractedly, by meditations in which the solo cello alternates with punctuating percussion, slithering orchestral chromatics and trilling string glissandi, all familiar from the composer's earlier scores. This may not be Gubaidulina's most powerful statement, but it is an interesting extension of her often compelling manner.

The performance of Oliver Knussen's now seminal *Coursing*, which began Rattle's concert, was interrupted by showers of leaflets descending on the audience and a noise like a fire alarm which was so disruptive that it was a wonder the concert

carried on. The leaflets contained some vituperative and personally offensive stuff suggesting that the British new-music scene was in the hands of a corrupt cabal, though uncredited, some considered that they signalled the return of the infamous Hecklers.

Rattle insisted on playing *Coursing* again, after which four further pieces provided a highly effective showcase for these performers' efforts over the years. You do not have to sympathise with the leafletters, however; to feel that the focus on familiar London composers could have been complemented by at least one work by a Birmingham-based composer.

KIRTH POTTER

I know thee and I know thee not, old man

THEATRE

CHIMES AT MIDNIGHT CHICHESTER FESTIVAL

KEITH BAXTER played Hal in both the original stage version and the 1965 movie of *Chimes at Midnight*. In Patrick Garland's revival at Chichester, he impressively graduates from the role of the wanton, calculating Prince to that of Hal's careworn, sickly father, Henry IV. That route of promotion is itself perhaps eloquent about the themes of the piece.

Orson Welles's film adaptation of two of Shakespeare's *Henry* plays compresses them so as to throw even greater emphasis on the contention between Hal's two father figures – his blood father, the cold, controlling and oppressive King, and his surrogate father, the permissive, dissolute, witty Falstaff – for the love and soul of the young heir.

An actor who plays Hal in his youth is a good deal more likely to age into a Henry IV than into the fat knight, a process parallel to that in the play where Falstaff is always fated to be just an essential enriching phase that Hal needs to pass through before accepting the humanly narrowing destiny of kingship.

At Chichester, Falstaff is played by Simon Callow, himself an outsize personality and fertile wit. The performance he gives here, though, is stronger on the fruity, boozing bombast and the airy, charmingly self-convinced delivery of barefaced whoppers than it is on suggesting any deeper hinterland to the character.



Simon Callow's Falstaff with Tam Williams as Hal in 'Chimes at Midnight'

As the title indicates, there's an elegiac thrust to the play which ends with the scene from *Henry IV* where the fat knight's death, babbling of green fields, is touchingly reported, just as Pistol, Nym and Bardolph are about to embark for the war in France.

But even a piece specifically re-shaped as a celebration of Falstaff could afford to take a more candid look at his darker side than we get here.

The ugliness in his misdeeds is not allowed to complicate our appreciation of their comic outrageousness. We

could be watching a scapgegrace who had roughly the same moral complexity and capacity for reflection on his actions as Mr Toad.

And the nature of Falstaff's emotional bond with Hal is under-explored. When Robert Stephens played the

ON THE FILM PAGES

Since 'Breaking The Waves', the Oscar-nominated Emily Watson has been making waves. Just don't call her a primadonna

THE THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 12 ➤

THE INDEPENDENT

WIN ONE OF 20 GREAT EVE'S BAYOU PRIZE PACKAGES

Each package includes an 'Eve's Bayou' poster signed by Samuel L. Jackson, a pair of tickets to see the film, the CD soundtrack, an 'Eve's Bayou' T-shirt and a copy of Spike Lee's classic film 'Jungle Fever' (courtesy of CIC Video).

Distributed by Alliance Releasing, 'Eve's Bayou' tells a spellbinding story of magic, murder and adultery set in 1960s Louisiana. The most successful independent film in the US last year, with Academy Award nominee Samuel L. Jackson, 'Eve's Bayou' opens in London and across the country on August 14th.

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Call cost 50p per minute and should last no longer than two minutes. Winners will be picked at random after the lines close at midnight on Sunday 10th August 1998. Usual Independent Newspaper rules apply. Editors decision is final.

FILM

Short, but perfectly formed

THE BIG PICTURE



RYAN GILBEY

MAJORETTES IN SPACE: FIVE GAY TALES FROM FRANCE (18)
DIRECTORS: DAVID FOURIER, FRANCOIS OZON, PIERRE SALVADORI AND BRUNO ROLLAND

WHAT ARE gay shorts? There are those ones that you can get at the Zipper Store, which comprise various secreted entrances and exits stitched into a scrap of PVC no bigger than a slice of ham. Expensive, considering what you get. Then there are the kind playing at London's ICA for the next two weeks in the programme "Majorettes in Space: Five Gay Tales from France". It will be cheaper to plump for the latter brand of shorts and, without wishing to cast aspersions on the sensual properties of PVC, I would also consider them to be the more pleasurable option.

The short film is generally thought to be a lesser art form - a rehearsal for those directors not yet up to feature-length speed. This perception has only really prevailed in the last 25 years. During that period, the convention of the supporting feature has been phased out, while the rise of the blockbuster has created a depressing equation between quantity and quality. These days, a film is likely to be judged by the weight of its fabric, rather than the refinement of the brocade.

Do not forget that the short has an illustrious history - any appraisal of cinema that neglects *Un Chien Andalou*, *Zéro de Conduite* or *La Jetée* would be an invitation to derision. And the area of gay short filmmaking in particular has never suffered from a dearth of distinguished practitioners, from Cocteau, Gide and Kenneth Anger through to modern artists such as Chris Newby whose AIDS-themed *Relax* has proved to be widely influential, and Todd Haynes' *Superstar, Dorothy Gets Sparked*.

It would not be overstating the case to insist that at least two of the film-makers featured in "Majorettes in Space" are fit to join this roll-call. And the whole programme has



François Ozon's *La Petite Mort* (starring François Delavie, above) is evidence that the 31-year-old director will produce spectacular full-length works

clearly been curated with intuitive editorial sensitivity. There are no discernible messages, though, on the evidence presented, you would be forgiven for thinking that the French have no truck with foreplay - but then these are shorts, after all.

Of the directors showcased, only Pierre Salvadori is likely to be familiar to British audiences. Two of his features have been released here, *Wild Target* and *Les Apprentis*, both sublime comedies and both notable for contriving situations in which Guillaume Depardieu has proved to be wildly influential, and Todd Haynes' *Superstar, Dorothy Gets Sparked*.

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case to insist that at least two of the film-makers featured in "Majorettes in Space" are fit to join this roll-call. And the whole programme has

infinitely preferable to seeing his dad do the same). Salvadori's *Un Moment* employs that notoriously troublesome stylistic device, the subjective camera, to locate us behind the eyes of a man lowering himself into the choppy waters of unprotected sex. The script tmes into the language of rickety logic summed up to justify the unjustifiable, and the sharpness of its reception can make you wince. "He's too young to have it," the unseen hero persuades himself before plunging into bed with a youthful stranger; as though positive thinking offered the

same level of protection as rubber.

The simplicity of the idea belies the technical complexities involved - to create this level of intimacy through subjective photography without falling prey to stray shadows is a considerable achievement. *Un Moment* isn't as effective as it might have been if it had been played out in real-time (it's a mere five minutes from doorstep to post-coital drowsiness). But what it shares with the other works in the programme is a sense of formal daring which too many British film-makers, in their desire to find an unyielding word over a

cryptic image, treat as an unnecessary extravagance.

Dialogue is sparse here, but not taboo. In the piece that relies most heavily on words, David Fourier's six-minute *Des Majorettes dans l'Espace* (*Majorettes in Space*), verbal and visual language are inseparable. The images in this playful, snappy short flash up in swift succession, suggesting the pleasantly humpy surface of a scrapbook collage, while the narration rolls along like the dizziest word association game you ever played. The film rests on a series of surreal noo

sequities that gradually converge to form a view of the universe as a junkyard of interlocked spare parts. Which may just be a convoluted way of trying to convey its essence without spoiling the jokes. Suffice to say that Fourier provides the missing links between majorettes, safe sex, the Pope and the latent homosexuality of Russian astronauts.

The longest work here, Bruno Rolland's *Quelque Chose de Différent* (*Something Different*), lives up to its title. Rolland favours long static takes; during a dinner scene, you tell yourself that surely no

director would dare keep the camera running, in the absence of dialogue, until the last morsel has been consumed by the last diner. Rolland would, and does.

His film has a stately, Gothic presence; the story of Robert (Roland Amstutz), a transvestite butcher, is embroidered with the ripe details of a Grimm's fairy tale. The colour red is everywhere: violent lipstick, bruised walls that might have been punched until they blistered and bled. When the butcher takes a walk under his wing, you steady yourself for a macabre jolt. But this truly is something different - a version of *Hansel and Gretel* where the only motivation for the witch to fatten up her captive is because he looks a bit pecky.

While the collection plays very well as a complete programme, there is one individual writer-director whose work has the imitable ring of truly refreshing and original film-making. François Ozon has already mesmerised festival audiences with his 52-minute film *Regards la Mer*, while his first feature, an extravagantly tasteless comedy called *Sitcom*, has just opened in France. In "Majorettes in Space", he is represented by two pieces. *La Petite Mort* (*A Little Death*) concerns a young photographer (François Delavie) who forges a last-minute relationship with his dying father. And in the very funny *Une Robe d'Eté* (*A Summer Dress*) a teenager (Frédéric Mangeot) bored with listening to his boyfriend's "stupid fag songs" visits the beach and has his interest in life, love and stupid fag songs unexpectedly rekindled.

Ozon is only 31 years old, but watching these jubilant films returns you to the first time you saw *Ma Nuit chez Maud* or *La Régule de Jeu*. Not that Ozon is a Rohmer or a Renoir; but he shares their effortless grasp of the intricacies and contradictions of human behaviour, and those directors' addiction to chronicling those patterns. His use of colour reflects the luxuriant vitality of his characters and observations. In *Une Robe d'Eté*, the hero's golede skin has the same deep texture as the yawning blue sky above him and the same impenetrable mysteries. *La Petite Mort* is the more sober work, though it also finds triumph and reconciliation in some unusual places - a darkroom, a hospital ward, the past.

Ozon's films can give you butterflies. He taps into the enigmatic sensuality of the greatest cinema, and isn't afraid to drench you in it. I feel hungry for his work; I can't wait to see what he does next.

ALSO SHOWING

GANG RELATED (15) JIM KOUF ■ EVE'S BAYOU (15) KASI LEMMONS ■ FIRELIGHT (15) WILLIAM NICHOLSON

THINGS WE ARE BORED WITH, PART ONE: DRIVE-BY SHOOTINGS, DRUG DEALS GONE GROTESQUELY WRONG, JIVE-TALKIN' HOMEBOYS WHOSE IDEA OF BEING ARTICULATE IS NOT TO LET THEIR PROFANITY COUNT EXCEED DOUBLE FIGURES IN

any one sentence. It is a pleasant surprise, therefore, to find that the new thriller *Gang Related* not only gives this tired formula a few welcome twists, but also has its tongue lodged in its cheek, a tone that is not generally encountered in this genre.

Most of us have occasionally wondered what possible function James Belushi could serve in the world, but he is a delight here as a cop for whom ethics

and morality are a blasted nuisance; if the milk of human kindness ever flowed inside him, it has long since curdled. Questioned about whether or not he had the right to be in a witness's apartment during her absence, he falters for a moment - he genuinely does not understand what he has done wrong. Then it hits him. "Oh right, that law thing." The bad penny drops.

It would be unwise for you to arrive at *Gang Related* being too familiar with its plot - what pleasures it offers are largely derived from the assorted bends, U-turns and blind alleys taken by the film's writer-director, Jim Kouf. But as Belushi and his partner (played by the late Tupac Shakur) struggle to frame a vagrant (*Dennis Quaid*) for a murder they have committed, the film gathers real comic momentum and escalates into an underworld farce. Kouf cannot maintain the pace, and the picture fizzles out in its final act, but now and then it glistens with the tantalising, city sheen of pure trash.

Things We Are Bored With, Part Two: films which begin with a sage female voice intoning the words "I was 10 years old when I killed my father/dentist/guinea pig", and then flash back to trace the narrator's fall from innocence. *Eve's Bayou*, which falls into this category, is not exactly a bad movie.

Part Three: miserable, emaciated 19th-century women being sold off to repressed landowners and having complicated corsets painstakingly laced and unlaced. In the period drama *Firelight*, Sophie Marceau is the



"Gang Related", a real tongue-in-cheek thriller

oversexed wife is warned. And Samuel L Jackson is excellent as a shifty doctor who simultaneously charms and sullices every woman he touches.

The picture is about his daughter - the film's narrator - discovering who he is. She hears a patient suggestively requesting "something to cure the pain" and slowly realises that aspirin is not on the menu.

It is not the fault of Lemmons that her Louisiana locations are somewhat devalued by over-familiarity, though she does not really add any new ingredients to the gumbo. Revelations tend to occur only during thunderstorms; voodoo prevails. In its favour, much of the characterisation is undeniably acute. But at its worst, the film tastes like reheated Fried Green Tomatoes.

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"POWERFUL AND MOVING, FILLED WITH TO THE BRIM HUMOUR AND FULL-BLOODED LUST, THIS IS A TRULY GREAT MOVIE." *THE TIMES*

"A MOODY AND EROTIC FILM ABOUT THE POWER OF DESIRE." *THE GUARDIAN*

Sophie Marceau
Stephen Dillane



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RYAN GILBEY

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL '98

The accidental director

After *Blasted*, is Sarah Kane's new play in good hands? Just ask the revitalised Paines Plough company. By David Benedict

"PEOPLE SAY to me, 'you've come from nowhere in a year', but I didn't. They just weren't listening. Or I wasn't showing them." Vicki Featherstone is on a high.

After her award-winning production of the false-memory syndrome drama *Anna Weiss* at last year's Festival, she's back at the Traverse with *Crave*, the startlingly elegant new play by theatre's so-called "bad girl". Sarah Kane. What's more, she's doing it as artistic director of the reborn Paines Plough, one of this country's most enduring and well-respected companies. Not bad, considering she's just 31 years old.

To get this far this fast, she must have been directing since the year dot. Not quite. While she was doing an English and drama degree at Manchester, a friend asked her to direct a play he'd written for his dissertation. "I wanted to be an actor, but it had never sat right with me. I was adequate but not good. But when I directed this play it was peculiar. I hadn't realised that was what I wanted to do, but as soon as I found myself doing it, everything in my life up to that point came into play. All my personal skills and my belief in theatre came together."

And that was that. After completing an MA in direction she wrote to everyone under the sun for a job. Met by a deafening silence, she took a production to the Edinburgh fringe. Its success led to stints on the assistant director circuit. She grins. "I learned a lot, sometimes in spite of people." She refuses to name names but talks of directors walking into rehearsals with clear-cut processes that they applied to everything. "I think it's fear. They're not open to anything. Surely, the question is how to find a way to work on this together? As an assistant, I've had really fine actors crying on my shoulder saying 'I really don't understand this play' because of the way a director has worked, not allowing his actors to own the play. It's just lines, lines, lines."

The next few years at the West



Vicky Featherstone (left) with theatre's so-called bad girl, Sarah Kane

Geraint Lewis

Yorkshire Playhouse and the Bolton Octagon taught her another lesson. She realised that the uncovering of a classic - the way that most directors make their reputations - didn't really interest her. Instead, she was drawn to the stimulation of working in the more unknown territory of new writing. In common with the Traverse's director, Philip Howard, she believes that a writer's vision is more interesting than a director's. "Friends would say, 'Oh, I've just found the way to do Calderon's *Life is a Dream*', or whatever. I just don't read plays and think about them like that."

What she didn't realise was that this amounted to a directorial vision. "It's to do with a fascination with writers and writing. And it's not going to run out on me, because it's not about me, it's about them." With at least 10 full-scale pro-

ductions under her belt, she turned down work to come to London to pursue this. But another letter-writing campaign yielded nothing until Dominic Dromgoole of The Bush rang her saying, "I suppose you know you're good? You'd better come in and meet me." He took her on as temporary literary manager but she leapfrogged sideways into TV as a script editor.

"It was a mistake. It paid well, but

I went to bed every night feeling a complete and utter fraud. At 27 I'd sold out on the dream I hadn't even tried. People told me I could do theatre at the same time, but it was no good. I wanted to work properly with writers." Then, last February, the Paines Plough job came up and she became *The Woman Who Gave Up TV*. She was making a serious career, having come up with the hit series *Where The Heart Is*, and

Touching Evil with Robson Green. Yet she describes leaving as "an unbelievable release".

At Paines Plough, she smartly brought in hot new writers, including Kane and Mark Shopping and Fucking Ravinehill. He co-wrote her first show, *Sleeping Around*, and despite the notorious difficulty of selling new writing, it played 70 per cent business around the country.

Her taste in writers is fairly tough-minded. "I do believe that an important theme and good dialogue are not enough." She talks of her attraction to plays with an image at the centre, such as the Scots playwright David Greig's *The Architect*, which, unfathomably, has never played London. "Those plays are really hard to get right because the image can seem overblown or feel irrelevant. It's much easier to think up a good story and just put it on stage. Stories are important, but I want more stimulation for the audience."

That attachment to imagery makes Featherstone an ideal match for Sarah Kane. "Watching a piece of theatre is like being on a swing. Your relationship to the characters is constantly changing. It's not like reading a novel, where the perspective is fixed. That's what I'm trying to do with *Crave*. In another play, you get the sense that the characters will carry on regardless of you being there. Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman* will be selling whether we're there or not. In *Crave*, the characters exist through speaking."

The hallmark of her direction is a spectacularly shrewd ear for detail and the truthful trajectory of the characters: "When you hear music you have one initial feeling about it. That's what happens when I read a play. I really try to hold on to that feeling and then try to place all my ideas around it. It's an instinctive thing. It parallels what an audience experiences. They only get one shot at it."

'Crave' opens tonight at the Traverse (0131-228 1404)

How to kill a show

Please don't sicken the sponsor. By Hettie Judah

THE FRINGE, which was once the preserve of crash-and-burn amateurism, has become a serious business. The major venues are now covered in more sponsorship logos than a Formula One driver. But quite where the sponsors' interest lies is not so easy to gauge.

Myra and Me, a new play by Diane Dubois, was programmed to play at the Gilded Balloon, when the sponsors, Calders, concerned about the nature of the material, decided to pull the show after weeks of tabloid pressure which was condemned as "sick". In time-honoured style, few of those condemning the play had seen it or read the script - all they knew was that Hindley's name was in the title.

In the event, the play is a rather moral tale about a group of Hull media students and their reactions to the Moors Murders 30 years on. Compared to some of the other entertainments at the Gilded Balloon, *Myra and Me* is tame stuff; in the last week I have heard countless Diana jokes, songs about prison rape and routines about paedophilia. From a man with the firecracker up his behind to the play about baking somebody's head in the oven after anal rape, they are all available at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Such freedom of speech is the central point of the Fringe festival; this is the biggest arts event in the world. As Dubois says "if you can't do it in Edinburgh, where can you do it?" It is this sense of freedom which attracts the sponsors, but while most sponsors seem content to let their venue control the programme, Calders has shown that while it wants to be rebel by association, it is not prepared to cope with the consequences. They had neither seen the play, nor read the script.

Earlier this year comedian Owen O'Neill had his show pulled from a festival of Irish comedy by the sponsors, Guinness, when they discovered that it discussed his alcoholism. The arts are increasingly dependent on sponsorship; but when the arts can be censored by multinational corporations, we are entering worrying times.

Myra and Me has transferred to The Assembly Rooms (0131-228 2428)

FESTIVAL EYE

THIS YEAR'S festival has a Dorfman feel to it. While father Ariel - the world-famous Chilean expatriate who is renowned for his Olivier-winning play *Death and the Maiden*, and his tireless human rights campaigns - is meeting in Conversation with leading lights from the edifice of Scottish cultural life, son Joaquin is currently treading the Edinburgh boards in *Dorm House 5*, a play which he both wrote and directed.

TICKET OFFERS

Take this paper to the box office at the venues below:

The Pleasance (venue 33): 10 pairs of tickets for the first 10 at the box office: 7pm-7.45pm: Fran Landesman's *Forbidden Games*. In a late night piano bar, the customers dream of re-awakening their still lives. The wit, song and poetry of lyricist Fran Landesman and jazz composer Simon Wallace, with Ian Shaw.

Calder's Gilded Balloon (venue 38): 5 pairs of tickets for each show: 12.45pm-2.15pm: Tim Bray, *Me and My Vice* - Backstage 1 7pm-8.30pm: Theatre Volteface, *Henry IV Part One*. Meeting Point, Guthrie Street

Fun with fascists

Food, laborious food is hard to swallow

COMEDY

THE LEAGUE AGAINST Tedium THE PLEASANCE

electronic Dada-esque visuals on to a screen using a wired-up glove.

His insults ("Attention scum. You are nothing"), megalomaniac pronouncements ("A thousand years ago, I sat by a river: Thus Londoo") and riddles ("We are all brothers. Hence, war") are timed to a nano-second. Most comedians try to create intimacy with an audience; Munnery aims at ludicrous autonomy. He can even generate his own applause at the click of a gloved finger: one component he could dispense with. DOMINIC CAVENDISH

THE EDINBURGH company Grid Iron scored a huge hit at last year's Fringe by staging an adaptation of Angela Carter's short story *The Bloody Chamber* in the city vaults. Having established themselves as responsibly minded practitioners of site-specific theatre, this time round they have been allowed into vaults beneath the magnificence of Central Library that have remained disused for the last 10 years.

The company must have patted itself on the back for having secured an architectural underbelly in which to conduct its ambitious exploration of bodily functions.

Among the copious literary quotes in the programme - a sprinkling of Claude Lévi-Strauss, a dash of Brillat-Savarin - the deviser of the show, Ben Harrison, acknowledges

THEATRE

GARGANTUA THE UNDERBELLY CENTRAL LIBRARY

the influence of Rabelais's novels *Gargantua* and *Pantagruel* (1532-1534), with their insatiable giants, for whom there is no punishment for indulgence.

One of the best dramatic dishes served up during the course of this 90-minute promenade is the tale of Gargantua's unnatural birth via an ear! and piggy childhood. But elsewhere the emphasis is on capturing the spirit of the guilty-free guzzle, as a means of countering Scotland's "stern Calvinist inheritance".

The starter, in which three clowns in grey tunics suggest a

miserable clockwork office existence through perfectly executed mime, is promising, with more than a flavour of *Alice in Wonderland*. With the arrival of the weekend, they leap to their feet and head off through the dank, but not malodorous, passageways into an imaginary restaurant where an Italian chef is cooking up an invisible meal.

It is at this point that a whiff of slightly nauseating self-indulgence begins to permeate proceedings: with an extended sequence of foodie talk (gobbledegook exclamations such as "Ex-boyfriend?" "Focaccia!"), polished off by some lavishly detailed sexual intercourse between a couple sitting at a table (an oyster is "swollen, palpably indecent"). You might think that this carefully

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

DAY PLANNER

YOUR HOUR-BY-HOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S BEST AT THE FESTIVAL AND FRINGE

10AM

CHILDREN

10.15 Jabberwocky. Lewis Carroll's world brought wonderfully to life. Over Seas House (venue 19), 100 Princes Street (225 3107). Price £5 (£4.50). To 31 Aug.

11AM

THEATRE

11.30-1.00 A Soldier's Song. One Paratrooper remembers the death and brutality of the Falklands war. Assembly Rooms (venue 31), 54 George Street (226 2428). Price £8-9 (£7-8). To 2 Sept (not 16, 17, 26 Aug).

12 NOON

THEATRE

12.00-1.45 Joy. Futuristic thriller. Abbotsford (venue 103), 18 Morningside Road (447 1122). Price £4 (£3.50). To 22 Aug (not 16).

1PM

THEATRE

1.40-2.55 David Benson - Nothing But Pleasure. A new show following on from the success of his first show *Think No Evil of Us*. Assembly Rooms (venue 31), 54 George Street (226 2428). Price £8-9 (£7-8). To 5 Sept.

2PM

CHILDREN

2.00-2.35 Rampstiltskin. Royal Mile Primary School (venue 58), Canongate. Price £3 (£2.50). 13-15, 17, 22-23 Aug.

3PM

DANCE

3.30-4.10 A Moovin' and a Groovin'. Entertainment complete with a chance to learn to dance. Graffiti (venue 90), Broughton Street (357 8330). Price £4.50 (£3.50). 13-17, 19-23, 31 Aug.

4PM

COMEDY

4.20-5.20 Ben Moor - My Last Week With Modilia. A gentle tale of boy meets girl in which a cynical twentysomething junior plastic surgeon falls in love with an 88-year-old woman his "anti-Lolita". Pleasance (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (556 6550). Price £6.50 (£5.50). To 31 Aug (not 18).

5PM

COMEDY

5.00-7.00 Over the Edge. Minimalist plays from Zimbabwe. Demarco European Art Foundation (venue 22), St Mary's School, York Lane/Albany Street (556 8409). Price £5 (£3). 13-15, 24-29 Aug.

6PM

THEATRE

6.15-7.15 The Mighty Boosh Surreal shaggy-dog story. Already this year's must-see show. Pleasance (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (556 6550). Price £8-9 (£7-8). To 31 Aug (not 25).

7PM

THEATRE

7.50-9.10 Jordan. Shirley Jones is accused of killing her child. Here she tells her story while awaiting judgment. Pleasance (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (556 6550). Price £8-9 (£7-8). To 31 Aug (not 18, 25).

8PM

COMEDY

8.15-9.15 Mark Doherty - Fascinating Things. Unique, surreal standup. Pleasance (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (556 6550). Price £7.50 (£6.50). 13, 16-20, 23, 25-27 Aug.

9PM

THEATRE

9.30-10.30 Chris Addison. Straight from touring with Jenny Eclair. Pleasance (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (556 6550). Price £8-9 (£7-8). To 31 Aug (not 25).

10PM

THEATRE

10.15-11.45 Rupert Street Lonely Hearts Club. Bittersweet play by Jonathan Harvey. Bedlam Theatre (venue 49), 11b Bistro Place (225 9893). Price £6 (£4). To 22 Aug.

11PM

CABARET

11.45-1.00 Mika - Ah! Ataahua (Beautiful Fire). Cabaret glitz meets karaoke. Assembly Rooms (venue 3), 54 George Street (226 2428). Price £8.50 (£7.50). To 5 Sept (not 17, 24, 28 Aug, 1 Sept).

12 MIDNIGHT

MUSIC

12.00-3.00 Club Graffiti. Amsterdam's New Cool Collective. Fridays, Midnight Blue; Saturdays, Lizard Lounge. Graffiti (venue 90), corner of Broughton and East London streets (557 8330). Price £3-£7 (£5-6).

1PM

THEATRE

1.40-2.55 David Benson - Nothing But Pleasure. A new show following on from the success of his first show *Think No Evil of Us*. Assembly Rooms (venue 31), 54 George Street (226 2428). Price £8-9 (£7-8). To 5 Sept.

2PM